Hafa Adai!

Swimmer nearly drowns at Grotto. PAGE 4
Six NMC students awarded scholarship grants. PAGE 8

Saipan Tribune

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Woman drives off Banzai Cliff

DFEMS PHOTO

A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel stands atop Banzai Cliff in Marpi as he watches rescuers from a Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Unit try to recover the body of 22-year-old Jilian He on Saturday. Witnesses saw He sitting at the edge of the cliff line, getting into a rented car, then accelerating the vehicle into the ocean on Saturday morning. He's body was recovered from inside the submerged car later in the afternoon.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman sat by the edge of Banzai Cliff in Marpi, got into her rented car, then drove off the cliff Saturday morning, police and witnesses said.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde identified the victim as Jilian He, 22, "a local Chinese female."

Rescuers from DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit and Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit recovered the trapped body of the victim from the submerged car,

See WOMAN on Page 4

Torres seeks CW-1 reprieve

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres spent the weekend in Phoenix, Arizona, attending the winter meeting of the Western Governors Association.

Right after that, Torres would be heading to Washington, D.C. to continue his meetings with White House and congressional officials to attempt to obtain a reprieve on the 3,000 slot reduction in the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program for fiscal year 2018 and the program's expiration by 2019.

The WGA meeting in Arizona, held Dec. 1 to Dec. 2, was also attended by Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo.

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RELATED NEWS

- SHRM members urged to join CW-1 signature drive. PAGE 3
- 'I just want to see my children grow' PAGE 6

CHCC getting US citizen applicants

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last October, despite the lack of funding from the government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. increased the salaries of its nurses to above-market rates, making it competitive with Guam and the

See CHCC on Page 4

DPL: Towing companies have no authority to tow on public land

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has clarified a long-asked question of those that frequent Garapan, saying only the local police force have the authority to tow and impound a vehicle on public land.

In a letter *Saipan Tribune* obtained that was addressed to a local tire shop owner, Department of Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo clarified that public land, or areas that are not under lease, remain "non-exclu-

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MILITARY EXERCISE
Members of the U.S. Navy's Explosive Ordnance Division Mobile Unit Five and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 "Island Knights" take part in an exercise at the former Division of Youth Service Center in Kagman.
BRAD E. RUSZALA

INSIDE

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Christmas in the Marianas kicks off at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.
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Saipan is set to roll out its red carpet when it hosts the Marianas Film Festival.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Christmas in the Marianas kicks off

The Marianas Visitors Authority, PDM Promoters, Inc., Team PDI, and other travel partners kicked off Christmas in the Marianas last Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The monthlong celebration offers weekly holiday entertainment for visitors and residents from 5pm to 9pm.

At the pedestrian mall, many schools have decorated assigned their trees. The annual school-wide Christmas tree decoration competition began on Saturday at 5pm, along with the official lighting of the large Christmas tree at 6pm. The trees, decorated with recyclable material, will remain on display at the pedestrian mall throughout the month. Also, elementary school students will sing their hearts out at the annual Christmas caroling competition.

MVA Community Projects specialist Lynn Sablan said the schools and students were excited in making their preparations for this month's celebration.

On Dec. 9, middle and high school students will continue with the Christmas caroling competition. On Dec. 16, the Parade of Floats will be held at 5:45pm from the Garapan Fishing Base on Beach Road to the American Memorial Park, followed by a costume show. Awards for all competitions will also be made. Winners of all competitions will

See CHRISTMAS on Page 4

MACKENZIE PEREZ

Two tourists take a closer look of the giant Christmas tree on display at the Paseo de Marianas. The Christmas in the Marianas annual celebration started last Saturday with the school caroling where students serenaded the crowd with holiday songs.

LOTTERY

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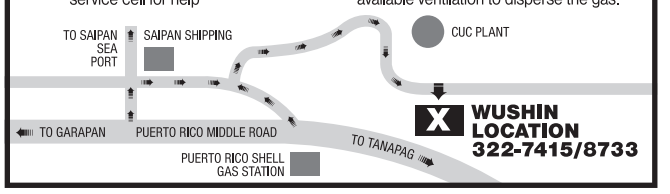

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SHRM members urged to join CW-1 signature drive

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Josephine Mesta, a Human Resources director of Hyatt Regency Saipan and board member of the Society for Human Resource Management, is urging the CNMI human resources community to join the signature drive to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program that the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. initiated last Monday.

"If you think that you and the business you own or work for are not going to be affected by this CW-1 issue, then I think this should be revisited. The reality is, we are all affected whether you have nonresident workers or not," Mesta said during Thursday's SHRM meeting at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"At some point, this entire island is going to get affected by it," she added.

U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services has announced a reduction of 3,000 slots in the CW-1 program, in accordance with Public Law 110-229, the law that gave jurisdiction to the federal government to handle CNMI immigration.

The CNMI government and business community have been scrambling to make the community understand the adverse effects of the CW-1 reduction.

The NMBAC itself is conducting a signature drive to organize the community and gather information about the impact of the CW-1 reduction on their lives and businesses and support the proposed amendments to P.L. 110-229 to make it more aligned with the CNMI economy.

"We encourage you to participate in the signature drive and survey. We would like to get as many signatures as we can and get many survey questionnaires filled and answered so we can present them to Washington, D.C.," Mesta said

"They don't understand what's going on here and, unless we present our case, nothing is going to change. Hopefully, we will be more prepared than the previous presentation and trying to play tag team so whoever is good in that area will be ready to answer questions that come our way," Mesta added.

Mesta emphasized the need to educate everyone in Washington, D.C. as well as the CNMI community about the impact of the CW reduction.

"We think a lot of education has to go out that we need to do it from our side. …A lot of people say, 'Never mind, let the Chinese go home.' People say this without thinking of the consequences. …Sorry to say but the business that we get from the Chinese is a big portion of our tourism as they are the ones coming in here and giving us business," Mesta said.

"I remember when I got the news about the reduction. I thought, 'Well, Hyatt is not really affected because we have a high percentage of U.S. workers' but we are talking about 3,000 slots. I realized we have Topline (cleaning agency), these are our housekeeping people, we have security and most of them are nonresidents. If there are no workers, who is going to clean the rooms and who is going to handle security?" she asked.

Mesta said this is the time

See SHRM on Next Page

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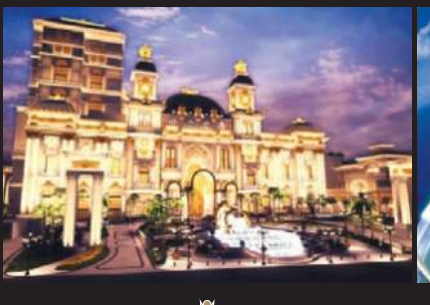

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Swimmer nearly drowns at Grotto

A 30-year-old man who was swimming with three friends nearly drowned at Grotto in Marpi last Saturday afternoon.

The victim, a Chinese national, was transported by first responders to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was admitted for further observation.

Acting Department of Public Safety spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said that police police responded to Grotto on Saturday at 2:53pm where a possible drowning incident was reported.

Tarkong said police learned that the victim had been swimming with three friends when they later found him floating face up and unconscious. They brought him to shore, where he regained consciousness.

The victim and friends had gone to the Grotto at 2pm. As the water was rough, the victim, who was wearing a life vest, swallowed water, causing him to lose consciousness.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said they received a call from DPS 911 on Saturday at 2:55pm of a near drowning incident at Grotto. Gersonde said that medics from the Garapan Fire Station arrived at Grotto at 3:11pm.

Medics found the victim, who was wearing a life jacket, complaining of head pain. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TORRES

From Page 1

The meeting featured discussions on regional issues, according to a statement from press secretary Kevin Bautista. It included talks about a workforce development initiative that seeks to "bridge the gap between prospective workers and employers."

"The goal will be to create enhanced career opportunities for students, graduates, and displaced workers to help build a more vibrant regional economy," according to a Torres administration statement.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, and U.S. Forest Service chief Tony Tooke offered keynote addresses.

On the issue of workforce development and infrastructure, Torres would be continuing his "active engagement on best practices with his colleagues from the West in order to strengthen the ongoing policy discussions surrounding labor and economic needs of the Commonwealth."

Others at the WGA meeting included WGA chair and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, WGA vice chair and Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead.

While in Arizona, Torres would be attending a Pacific Basin Development Council board meeting, during which Torres would be meeting with PBDC executive director Esther Kia'aina to touch on economic development in the Pacific and indigenous land ownership rights.

Chaired by Calvo, the PBDC is a regional organization founded back in 1980 and promotes development in the Pacific region as well as conduct research and implement projects in the area.

According to a separate administration statement last Thursday, it said that Torres' Washington, D.C. trip will include discussions on a request for a reprieve of the CW reduction for fiscal year 2018.

Matt Deleon Guerrero and Alex Sablan, representing the business alliance called Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., told the House of Representatives last Thursday about the CNMI's request for a reprieve.

According to Deleon Guerrero, who also serves as Torres' chief of staff, there is nothing in the law that prevents the Trump administration from bringing the current 3,000 CW-1 reduction back to just one, as was previously been done by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—as long as the number of CW-1 slots remain less than last fiscal year's.

"[USCIS] makes annual reductions based on reductions of the previous year. What is allowed is increases within the year. So, for instance there is a reduction of 6,000 [CW-1 slots] for this fiscal year. If [USCIS] wants to increase the amount [of CW-1] permits within the fiscal year to more than what the reduction would have, as long as it's below the previous year, it would be allowable," Deleon Guerrero explained.

However, despite that tiny glimmer of hope to save the CW-1 program from elimination, Deleon Guerrero said a roadblock to the conversations is that movement within Congress must first be sought and this is something the NMBAC lacks.

Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, is the same law that federalized CNMI immigration and created the five-year CNMI-only Transitional Worker Program, or the CW-1 program, which has already been extended once by the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Labor back in 2014.

Current law provides that the expiration of the CW-1 program is at the end of calendar year 2019.

With the U.S. Secretary of Labor losing its discretionary authority in 2014 to extend the CW-1 program once more, only an act of Congress could extend the CW-1 program.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

WOMAN

From Page 1

which was found about 300 feet off of the cliff, 74 feet below sea level, on Saturday at 3:24pm, Gersonde said.

Acting DPS spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong confirmed that police met with witnesses, who told them that an Asian woman drove a white-and-black Toyota Yaris sedan off the cliff.

A couple said the victim was first seen at the edge of the cliff; a security guard shouted at her to move away from the edge.

The couple said the victim got into her car, threw a purse and other items outside, backed the vehicle up then accelerated toward the cliff. The car hit a rock at the edge of the cliff, causing the vehicle to jump into the air, then fall into the water, with its front and roof smashing into the ocean first.

"It was like a car stunt in a movie," said the witness, whose wife then called 911.

The wife said there was no phone signal so she first had to look for a spot to make the call.

The husband said the car was immediately submerged in the rough waters. He said the victim accelerated the car about 40 feet away from the cliff's edge.

The couple and another man who was cliff fishing were at the scene at the time.

Tarkong said a DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit, along with a DPS Boating Safety Unit, responded and found the car several feet deep under the water below the cliff line.

Witnesses told *Saipan Tribune* that before the woman drove the car off the cliff, she threw a purse and an alleged suicide note out of the vehicle.

DFEMS received the call from DPS 911 about a car that had ran off the Banzai Cliff on Saturday at 9:35am.

Gersonde said a rescue unit from the Susupe Fire Station reported at 9:45am that the car had gone over the southern cliff of Banzai Cliff.

Medics from the Garapan Fire Station and SARU were dispatched to the scene to assist.

Gersonde said that DPS officers who interviewed eyewitnesses stated that He was last seen backing her car from the edge of the cliff and throwing out her purse, then accelerating the car off the cliff.

He's 2017 Toyota Yaris had been rented from QQ Car Rental.

DPS officers later found a note in He's purse that was written in both Chinese and English.

After the victim's body was recovered from the water, it was transported to the marina by Boating Safety and transported to the Commonwealth Health Center at 4:14pm by the DPS Crime Scene technicians.

Gersonde said a doctor pronounced He dead at 4:35pm.

The incident somewhat echoes scenes from World War II, when Japanese civilians threw themselves off the cliff and Suicide Cliff rather than surrender to the invading U.S. Army.

DPL

From Page 1

sive and open to the public."

The same goes for business establishments that have secured a Parking Temporary Occupancy Agreement from DPL, making the parking area under businesses that secured such an agreement non-exclusive and open to the public as well—regardless if the business establishment is patronized or not.

"In cases where parking may take place on a right-of-way or on other public land, DPS holds the authority to tow and impound vehicles," the letter states, adding that a vehicle is subject to towing if it is left unattended for over 72 hours or three full days, is blocking a private driveway, is believed to have been stolen, or for "reasons which can be found in violation of DPS regulations."

Teregeyo said that towing companies have towed cars parked along Corporal Derence Jack Road, just outside of Garapan Elementary School.

"At that time, such parking spaces were unrestricted and therefore the towing company should not have towed the parking vehicles," said Teregeyo, adding that the area now has signs that inform the public that public parking is prohibited during school hours, which is from 7am to 4pm.

"Vehicles parked outside of the hours will not be towed," she said.

According to Teregeyo, only DPL, DPS, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, or the lessee of public land could authorize the towing of a vehicle.

"Towing companies have no authority to tow vehicles on public land except those parked on fire lanes," she added.

CHCC

From Page 1

U.S. mainland.

According to CHCC CEO Esther Muña, that has had the salutary effect of motivating applications in the U.S. mainland.

"We are now getting applications from U.S. citizens for nurse and nursing assistant positions. It became an attractive position for us and I think that was the best decision we have made. When you increase the salary, this is also a good way to recruit," she said.

Despite their problem with funding, the increase was inevitable, Muña said. "At the end of the day, when we don't have our nurses, we can't provide our services. We certainly have our doctors but they can't do the work of nurses," she said.

"The CNMI needs a strong healthcare system and how do you do that if your workforce is weak? We are improving services and trying to meet the needs of the community," Muña added.

With the recent announcement of U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services to reduce 3,000 CW-1 slots in fiscal year 2018, coupled with a nursing shortage in the U.S. mainland and around the world, Muña is aware of the shortage of nurses at the national level because Guam and the U.S. keep recruiting from CHCC's staff.

According to Nancy O'Malley, a registered nurse from Denver, the nursing shortage in the mainland is caused by various factors.

"Most hospitals prefer registered nurses from a four- to five-year baccalaureate nursing programs that are more expensive than the three-year hospital-based programs that are more technically-based. There is also a critical shortage of nurse educators for BSN schools of nursing," she said.

"The low pay scale is also a big disincentive. The pay scale for the job requirements and responsibilities and the retirement benefits also discourage highly qualified nurses from staying at the bedside. Some find other higher pay, better benefits in healthcare-related fields such as medical and pharmaceutical manufacturer's representatives," O'Malley added.

Looking at the bigger view of what's happening with the rest of the world plays into how the CNMI can address its nursing shortage, Muña said.

"CHCC is addressing the shortage not only here but around the world and coming up with a salary structure was the best decision."

"We also encourage the students to come to us if they want to pursue a career in the medical field. There are a lot of careers available, not only doctors and nurses, but also careers in physical therapy, respiratory therapy, careers in the lab like radiology technician. Even if you just want to start, see me," she added.

For current nursing students, CHCC can help prepare them get into the system.

"We can provide payment for licenses, pay for their tests and even offer a study room in the hospital. All of these efforts are part of our recruit and retention program because the two are a must in the health care system," Muña said.

The bigger question, though, is, will they stay?

CHRISTMAS

From Page 2

also be announced on Dec. 16. The event will run from 5pm to 9pm for the first three Saturdays.

Dec. 23 will feature individual acts; interested musicians and performers may contact Sablan at 664-3200/01 to request to be scheduled. The Japanese Mochitsuki Festival will be held on Dec. 30, marking the pounding of rice to make "mochi," a traditional event in preparation for the new year.

Participating schools this year are Oleai, Koblerville, Gregorio T. Camacho, Kagman, and San Vicente elementary schools; Hopwood Jr., Tanapag, Dandan, and Chacha Ocean View middle schools; Kagman and Marianas high schools; Agape Christian School, Seventh Day Adventist School, Saipan Community School, Green Meadow School, Saipan International School, Northern Marianas International School, and Grace Christian Academy.

For more information on the event, contact Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

SHRM

From Page 3

that the CNMI community must come together.

"At the end of the day, as HR people, we are the ones who are going to be responsible. We are the ones who are going to tell the people that we would have to cut their work hours, we will have to take your benefits away and we are going to have to send them home," she added.

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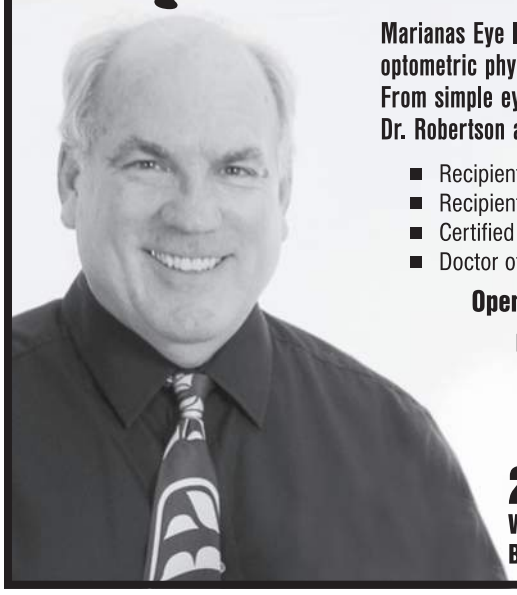

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'I just want to see my children grow'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A contract worker fears the drastic cut made to the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program will greatly impact the lives of his children more than his own.

It is no shock that immigrant workers are upset about the inevitable possibility of losing their jobs after news that drastic slot cuts were made on the CW-1 visa program but what about the children of these immigrant workers?

Most of these workers under the CW-1 visa program have lived in the CNMI for years, like contract worker Joel Prinze Salvosa.

Salvosa, who works for the I Love Saipan store in Garapan, has been living on Saipan for over 20 years now, almost half his life and, according to him, the island has now become his home and is also home to his three children: Chloe, 18; Kyle, 16; and Tashyanna, 14.

"I am a single parent so I am the only one providing for my kids… like the basic necessities…I don't know what would happen to them if I leave," said Salvosa.

All of Salvosa's children were born on Saipan and have spent their entire lives on the island, with occasional vacation trips to the Philippines.

In a worst-case scenario, if Salvosa is denied a CW-1 visa after it expires on Dec. 31, 2017, he will have to uproot his entire family and start from scratch in the Philippines.

"That's not easy," he said, pointing out that his children know the Philippines as a place where they go to for a vacation but not their home.

Salvosa is not only worried financially. He also fears how such a change would impact his three children's lives once they are abruptly taken away from their home and put in a whole new environment.

Salvosa is aware that CW-1 laws are not controlled by the local government but by the federal government, which he believes most likely do not know that immigrant workers and their children make up a huge chunk of the local community.

"These [federal decision-makers] have never lived on Saipan. They don't understand how these drastic cuts would affect the kids…I think they should do further research before they make such drastic cuts," he said.

All Salvosa is asking for is alternative option in consideration of immigrant workers with children in the Marianas.

"This is my home now. There is no reason for me to go to the U.S. mainland or anywhere else because life is simpler and safer here…all I am asking is an alternative. It doesn't have to be U.S. citizenship," he said.

According to Salvosa, all the alternative choices that were suggested to him and many other contract workers in a similar position are either uncertain, too costly for the company, or both.

Salvosa is pleading for more alternative solutions because he wants to be able to continue to provide for his children and continue to ensure that they succeed because they are offered so much more on Saipan.

"My children are my life so my life is here…I just want to see them grow, I just want to see them succeed," he said.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fair Housing Accessibility Seminar

On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is sponsoring the second part of a two-part training/seminar. The Fair Housing & Accessibility Seminar at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe is for **architects, attorneys, civil engineers, contractors, developers, builders, disability housing advocates, Section 504 coordinators, landlords, property managers, site managers, maintenance personnel, or anyone interested in Fair Housing Accessibility.**

The Fair Housing Act, Section 504, and the ADA mandate accessibility for persons with disabilities. Come learn how your property, regardless of whether it is conventional, tax credit, or otherwise federally funded, must be made accessible under at least one of the three federal civil rights/accessibility laws (the Americans With Disabilities Act, Section 504, and/or the Fair Housing Act).

This seminar will help educate you on the obligations under each of these laws as well as what practical steps to take to ensure equal housing opportunity for persons with disabilities and avoid fair housing accessibility complaints. **The topics include: (1) what type of housing is covered by each of the three federal accessibility laws; (2) what technical standards or "safe harbors" are applicable; (3) how to ensure you have accessible public and common use areas and individual dwelling units; (4) common Fair Housing Act and Section 504 accessibility issues discovered on properties; (5) the latest Department of Justice accessibility settlements and enforcement actions; (6) the benefits of having an accessibility inspection and plan for your properties; and (7) much more.**

Registration fee before November 30, 2017 is $40.00 per person and registration fee after November 30, 2017 is $50.00 per person. For government agencies and non-profit partners, the registration fee is $25.00 per person. The fee will cover for the 2-day seminar and refreshments. Due to limited seating, please contact Doraine Camacho or Jacob Muna at 234-6866/9447/7670 for reservations

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

High court affirms division of marital property

On Nov. 30, 2017, the CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Rose Ann Dela Cruz v. Elden C. Dela Cruz*, 2017 MP 11. Oral arguments in this matter were held at Northern Marianas College as part of the Judiciary's Judges and Justices in the Classroom program. The high court affirmed the trial court's judgment on division of marital assets.

Husband Elden C. Dela Cruz appealed the judgment following his divorce from wife Rose Ann Dela Cruz. He argued the trial court erred by (1) awarding title of the marital home and lot to his wife while awarding him a credit in the amount of half the appraised value of the home and lot; (2) incorrectly calculating parties' contributions to the marital debt; (3) failing to distribute a Toyota T100 pickup truck as a marital asset; and (4) assessing an incorrect value of firearms considered marital property.

In its review, the high court determined the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it awarded Dela Crua credit in the amount of one-half the value of the home and property to offset against other marital property or debt he may owe a share of, rather than forcing a sale of the home. The high court further determined there was no abuse of discretion in calculating the marital debt. The court declined to consider additional evidence about the marital debt on appeal, noting its role is not to reweigh the evidence, and parties are generally prohibited from introducing contrary evidence on appeal not introduced in the trial court. The high court also concluded there was no clear error in the decision to not include the T100 pickup truck in the judgment, because no evidence of the truck was presented by the parties. Finally, the high court determined there was no clear error in concluding the firearms were marital property, and no abuse of discretion in accepting the wife's valuation of the firearms.

As a result, the high court affirmed the judgment. ***(PR)***

Magistrate judge denies Sun request to 'convert' cash bond to unsecured bond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy denied Thursday Sen Sun's request to require him to post an unsecured bond instead of $8,500 cash as a condition of his temporary release.

Despite Sun's story that the $8,500 that was seized from him at the time of his arrest has been converted by the U.S. government into a cashier's check and mailed off-island for safekeeping, Kennedy said that this does not alter her decision to impose the secured bond.

Sun, allegedly an overstaying Chinese tourist, was indicted in federal court for allegedly operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth here. The indictment charged him with harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering.

Sun, through counsel Benjamin K. Petersburg, had asked the court to amend his conditions of release.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, opposed.

O'Malley said that an unsecured bond will have little to no effect on Sun's decision to abide by the court's directives.

In her order Friday, Kennedy noted that during Sun's detention hearing, she found that release or personal recognizance or on an unsecured bond would not reasonably assure Sun's appearance and imposed the least restrictive combination of conditions to assure his appearance in court.

Those conditions included an $8,500 secured bond, Sun's release to a third-party custodian, and location monitoring.

Kennedy said while the amount that she set equaled the amount seized from Sun upon his arrest, his other, unexplained financial resources, his delay in submitting his passport and his ties to a foreign nation warrant the conditions, including the secured bond, irrespective of the availability of the $8,500 seized from him.

Without new information, Kennedy said, Sun will be released when the court's imposed conditions are met, as ordered during the Nov. 15 detention hearing.

O'Malley has concerns about the proposed third party custodian for Sun—his former landlord—and is likely a witness to Sun's illegal operation.

At this point, the U.S. government has no reason to believe the proposed custodian was involved in the illegal operation, but he was at least passively involved, O'Malley said.

Assigning a prospective witness as third-party custodian would obviously make it impossible for Sun to abide by the court's "no contact" order, he added.

BankGuam Holding declares Q4 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced Friday that its board of directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its board's regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 27, 2017.

The dividends will be paid on Dec. 29, 2017, to shareholders of record as of Dec. 15, 2017.

BankGuamHolding Company president and chair of the board Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we remain profitable for this quarter, allowing us to provide a return on our shareholder's investment and that the book value for our shares has increased." ***(PR)***

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Atkins Kroll Inc. has been established for over 103 years on Guam and 50 years in Saipan. We are members of the Inchcape family, we are a key and valued contributor to the global industry leader. Based in 29 international markets and currently employing around 16,000 people, Inchcape provides motorists, businesses and vehicle manufacturers with a variety of automotive services from import and distribution; brand management and marketing; dealer network appointment and management, retailing, aftersales servicing and financial services.

Inchcape has been a purely automotive Group since 2000 and we pride ourselves on providing a level of customer service that cannot be matched by our competitors. This differentiation is embedded into our Customer focused culture, which is brought to life every day through colleagues in every location across the Group.

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Six NMC students awarded scholarship grants

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A sophomore at the Northern Marianas College is a recipient for the second time of the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* scholarship award.

Vicorylie A. Quijano, who is pursuing a double major in business management and elementary education, was one of six NMC students chosen to be awarded a total of $14,670.75 in scholarship funds on Friday at the NMC conference boardroom.

The other beneficiaries at NMC were Andrea S. Camacho, Chrystalle Joie S. Lioren, Dionne A. Deleon Guerrero, Kelly Marie D. Maligsa, and Thomas Gregory A. Rabago.

In Guam, three students at the University of Guam and one at the Guam Community College were also presented with the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* scholarship awards.

"As one of the recipients last year, and it really encourages me to work harder. I'm planning to hopefully be one of the recipients for the scholarship until I finish I college," Quijano said

BEA CABRERA

From left, NMC director of Finance Daisy Prospt, NMC acting president Barbara Merfalen, scholars Vicorylie Quijano, Andrea Camacho, Dionne Deleon Guerrero, Thomas Gregory Rabago, Kelly Marie Maligsa Chrystalle Joie Lloren, First Hawaiian Bank branch manager Vicky Concepcion, *Guam Business Magazine* publisher Maureen Maratita, and 2014 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Business Woman of the Year Shirley Sablan.

According to Maureen Maratita, publisher of *Guam Business Magazine*, scholarship recipients were selected based on their total number of credit hours enrolled for the semester, grade point average, involvement in the community, and potential for success in business.

"Other stipulations for the scholarship include a GPA of over 3.0 and we ask for an essay, so it is fair the say that these scholars are high achievers," Maratita said. "We opened the applications in July and we are very pleased that all the students who applied for the scholarship are receiving an award. We are very pleased with the efforts that they are making, particularly at this time, which is such a time of change in the NMI because the only thing you can rely on at this moment is education."

The First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* scholarship has been awarded to 122 student from Guam and CNMI since 2006. A total of $234,325.50 has been awarded since the award's inception.

Maratita said the program has grown over the years, giving birth to the Business Woman of the Year Award.

"We began initially with the University of Guam and then we saw the need to extend to community colleges. Expanding meant more work but it also provided more rewards for the students," Maratita said.

"We recognize the need for such a scholarship as we know that there are students who carry a heavy load who don't always have the financial backing that they should [have] so we are very pleased to be able to support them," she added.

Maratita said they get updates from graduates who were recipients of the scholarship.

"Some of them have gone on to further studies…or they are making a mark in the business community," she said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Fair Housing Training

On Tuesday, December 12, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is sponsoring the first part of a two-part training/seminar. The Fair Housing Training at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe is for **homeowners, landlords, property managers, site managers, maintenance personnel, Section 504 coordinators, or anyone interested in Fair Housing**. Whether you are a property owner, manager, coordinator, or employee who interacts with applicants or tenants, you have to understand fair housing requirements. Fair housing laws permeate every aspect of housing, from the first interaction with an applicant when he or she calls the office until the date the tenant moves out of his or her unit.

For instance, did you know that the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in multiple areas of housing-related transactions, including advertising? Specifically, the Fair Housing Act prohibits publishing advertisements that indicate "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on" the protected categories "with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling." 42 U.S.C. § 3604(c); 24 C.F.R. § 100.75(a). Whether you realize it or not, you are likely "advertising" your property in some form or fashion every day because that term includes any verbal or written statement on flyers, brochures, banners, leaflets, signs, posters, deeds, applications, pictures, and even property-based roommate ads. In fact, just about anything staff members say or imply to prospective renters in person, writing, or by phone can be considered advertising.

What about reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification requests from your tenants? What is a request for accommodation? What can property managers ask for to establish that a tenant actually needs an accommodation? Is every request "reasonable?" Can a tenant have any type of animal as an accommodation?

Come learn about how to address the everyday pitfall in advertising, responding to reasonable accommodations, and much, much more including: 1) how the aging population is going to affect your properties' accessibility, 2) criminal background checks, 3) preventing housing harassment, and 4) addressing requests for assistance animals, service animals and companion animals.

Registration fee before November 30, 2017 is $40.00 per person and registration fee after November 30, 2017 is $50.00 per person. For government agencies and non-profit partners, the registration fee is $25.00 per person. The fee will cover the 2-day training/seminar and refreshments. Due to limited seating, please contact Doraine Camacho or Jacob Muna at 234-6866/9447/7670 for reservations.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

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CJCO director presents to NMC students

Randel L. Sablan, director of the CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office, spoke before a group of Northern Marianas College students Tuesday morning about the relationship between the CNMI government and the military.

Barry Wicksman and Lupe Robinson invited Sablan to present to their Current Issues in the CNMI classes to explain the purpose of his office and its role in in the Marianas.

During the 90-minute class, Sablan shared his background as a native of Guam, his education and his professional experience in the public and private sector that led to his current role with the military.

He also explained his role with the military, how the military works directly with the local government at the executive level and with municipal agencies.

BRAD RUSZALA

CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office director Randel L. Sablan poses with professors Barry Wicksman and Lupe Robinson outside of their Current Issues in the CNMI classroom at the Northern Marianas College.

Tuesday's presentation was Sablan's second visit to the Current Issues in the CNMI class.

Throughout each presentation, Sablan answered questions from the students about the types of training in the Marianas, the relocation of Marines from Japan and the military's plans in the region.

He found the students engaging during the question-and-answer period and said he appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with the students about the issues affecting the present and their future.

"They asked some excellent questions which demonstrated just how closely they're following current events in the Marianas. I look forward to sharing with the class again," he said.

Current Issues in the CNMI is one of NMC's capstone courses designed to make students more active, competent, and effective citizens of the CNMI. The course familiarizes students with current and future political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues and challenges facing the CNMI. The class allows students to analyze and discuss the issues before exploring possible solutions.

Community participation is a core component of the program and Wicksman appreciates the community leaders who share their time in the classroom.

"Current Issues classes are made better when our community gets involved. Our military's role in the CNMI continues to be an important issue and we are fortunate to have those directly involved share with our class." ***(PR)***

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build contractor to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL Systems to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being solely financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Funds have been allocated, and supplemental funding will be made available depending on the bid amounts. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, Friday, December 15, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 16, 2017

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at former golf course, Orote Point

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada on Dec. 4-8, from 7am to 10pm.

The military will also conduct training at Orote Point on Dec. 8-9, from 10am to 2pm. The training will be contained within the following coordinates: 13° 25' 24"N/144° 38' 15"E.

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan

A benefits counselor of the U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.

The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Personalized Christmas ornaments for sale in fundraiser

Team KOKA presents the second year of its Tree of Angels project. Personalized Christmas ornaments are being sold for $5 in memory of beloved ones. The ornaments will be displayed on Christmas trees beginning Dec. 10 at the San Jose Church. If interested in helping with this fundraiser, feel free to buy from any of the Team KOKA members or contact teamkokacnmi@gmail.com or Frances Diaz at 433-3800. ***(PR)***

'Glow, Walk, Run, or Wheel' on Tinian

The VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter presents its annual "Glow, Walk, Run, or Wheel" on Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 5:30pm at the Tinian Teen Center. This will be the fourth year for the VOICES signature event.

Registration is $10 per participant and each participant will receive a signature T-shirt designed by The Undeniable and a raffle ticket.

Raffle tickets will be sold at $1 each during the event or can be purchased early from any of the team members. For information, contact Jan Barcinas at 433-3826 or Monika Diaz at 433-3800 or email monikahdiaz@gmail. ***(PR)***

Innovation Summit on Dec. 5

The Commonwealth Development Authority and the CNMI Department of Commerce are hosting an Innovation Summit on Dec. 5 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, from 9am to 2pm, featuring John McElligott and David Rixter. This summit is workforce development related, augmented with new technology that is now developing rapidly. It is free.

There will also be a small gathering on Dec. 4, 2017, at the American Memorial Park Indoor Theatre from 5pm to 8pm, during which McElligott will be making a presentation to potential stakeholders as well as to any other interested individuals.

Members of the community, both public and private, are encouraged to participate. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in Dandan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption from Dec. 5 through Dec. 7, from 1pm to 5pm in the Dandan area (Pasgua Ct., Paseo Ct., Hafa Adai Ave., Palasyo Ct. and Mwaremwar Ave.).

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be replacing a 6-inch water gate valve. As a result to the new valve, a more effective and efficient water operation will be provided to the community. For the safety of men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Jastillana graduates from basic training

Jastillana

U.S. Air Force airman Iggie Boy G. Jastillana has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Jastillana is the nephew of Margie G. Cabaobas of Saipan and is a 2017 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

ARTS CONTEST JUDGES

From left, Imperial Pacific International Ltd. executive director Geri Dela Cruz, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library director Erlinda Naputi, and former Saipan Community School teacher O'Ronia Sikayun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Ask for a Kwik Pik ticket and have your numbers randomly picked for you.The more games you play the better your chance of winning a prize!
What you need to win:
Division | Match | PRIZE
1st | ALL 6 JACKPOT NUMBERS + THE MEGA NUMBER | JACKPOT*
2nd | 6 JACKPOT NUMBERS | $20,000*
3rd | 5 JACKPOT NUMBERS + THE MEGA NUMBER | $5,000*
4th | 6 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $20,000*
5th | 6 NUMBERS | $10,000*
6th | 5 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $5,000
7th | 5 NUMBERS | $1,000
8th | 4 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $400
9th | 3 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $40
10th | 4 NUMBERS | $30
11th | 2 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $12
*In the case of more than one winning ticket for prize Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the Prize amount will be divided by the total number of valid winning entries.
Tickets available here:
XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

GOP is hurrying on taxes so Americans won't see the truth

Why is the Republican Party trying to pass a dramatic overhaul of our tax system at breakneck speed, blocking hearings, analysis, debate and public awareness of what the plan would do?

Even with the big rush, many people already have a gut feeling that this "tax reform" will be a nightmare for them, and they oppose it in polls by 2 to 1. The GOP can't hide how slanted toward the wealthy the benefits are. The breaks to owners of private jets and huge partnerships—which economists say would not provide the economic growth Republicans promise—could be permanent. Tiny breaks for the segment of the middle class lucky enough to get them, which does not include most Long Island residents, would expire in a few years.

But the GOP is hurrying to keep average Americans from realizing that the details might make them even angrier than the obvious flaws.

The GOP tax plan includes big moves devastating to middle-class wallets, like lost deductions for state and local income and property taxes, student loan interest and medical expenses. But it also contains less-understood changes that undermine key initiatives.

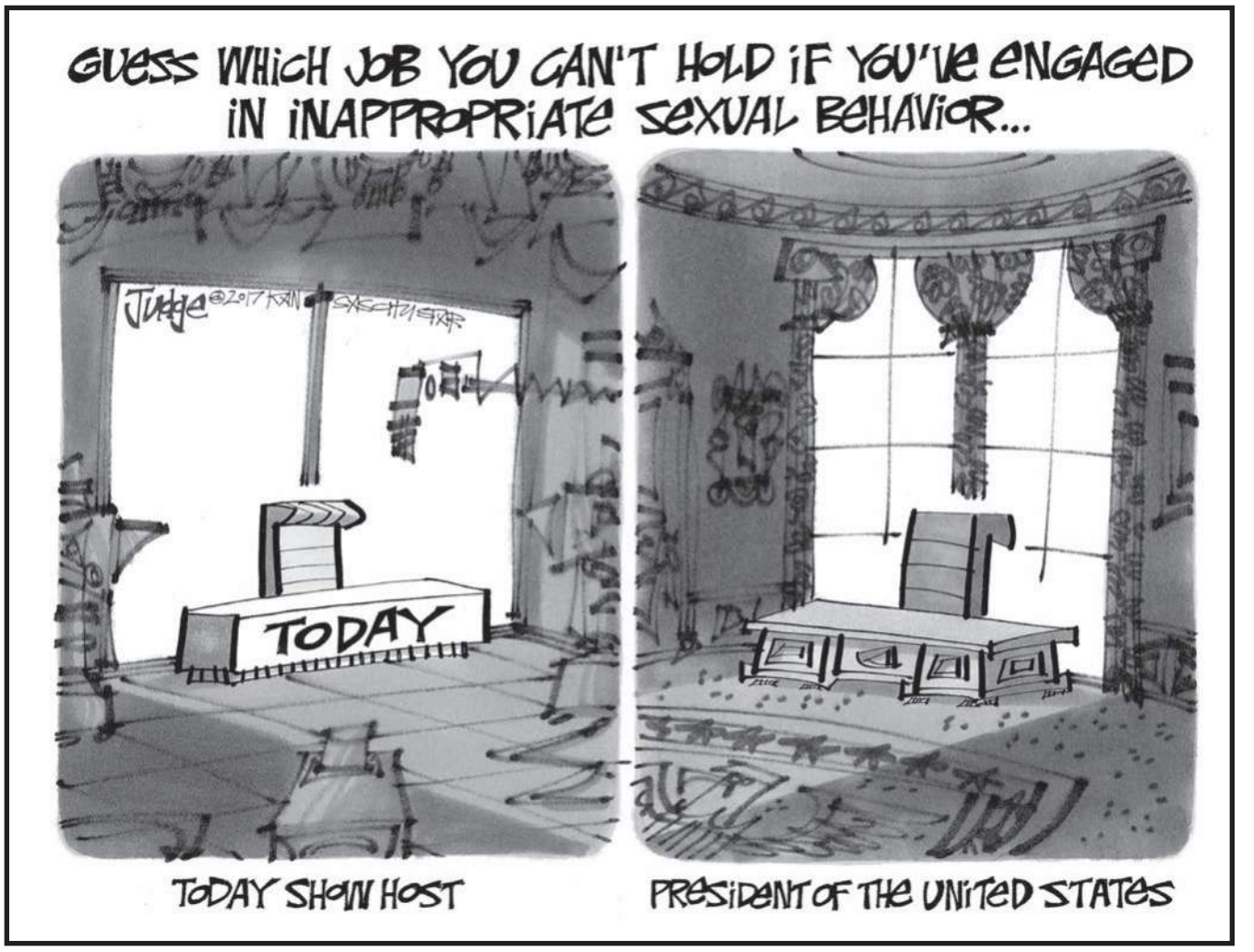
The GOP tax plan is about serving the philosophy of the donor class. It would overturn the 1954 law that bars tax-exempt religious groups from politicking. It would kill tax credits for renewable power sources. It would end the tax-free bonds that have spurred construction of affordable housing, nursing homes, airports, hospitals and toll roads. The bill's elimination of the state and local tax exemption intends to drive down spending on schools, social services, health care and other crucial services.

So the hurry is not meant to give Americans a big tax cut as a Christmas present, as President Donald Trump says. It's necessary because given time to understand, voters across the political spectrum will demand the legislation be stopped.

The frantic pace that got a bill through the House of Representatives two weeks ago and has the Senate near a vote is now threatening to undermine their efforts. The Joint Committee on Taxation said Thursday the plan would increase the debt by at least $1 trillion. Any increase in the deficit derails the attempt to avoid the need for Democratic votes. Their fix, a trigger to automatically raise taxes was derailed by the Senate parliamentarian and now they must find new ways to raise revenue.

The Congressional Budget Office says the House version costs so much that passage would force cuts in 2018 of $25 billion to Medicare and $111 billion to other programs like Customs and Border Patrol and the Student Loan Administration. The Medicare cut, at least, likely wouldn't bother GOP leaders, since such slashes to the social safety net are their next big goal after tax cuts. Sen. Marco Rubio said Wednesday that reducing Social Security benefits and increasing the eligibility age for future recipients are his next priorities.

See GOP on Next Page


GUESS WHICH JOB YOU CAN'T HOLD IF YOU'VE ENGAGED IN INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR...
TODAY
TODAY SHOW HOST
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

My daughter is beautiful. She doesn't need 'retouching'

By SCOTT MAXWELL
TAKING NAMES

My first thought was: You've got to be kidding.

I was reading the online order form for my daughter's senior-class portrait and noticed we had the option of altering her appearance ... for a price.

For $20, we could whiten her teeth. Or her eyeballs.

For $40, we could make her tan lines disappear. Or even the braces on her teeth. (If she had either, anyway.)

You've heard about the "price of beauty." Well, in this case, the price was $120 to get the whole eye-whitening, braces-vanishing shebang.

But it didn't stop there. "Enhanced retouching" also offered us the chance to "soften age lines."

Yes, "age lines" ... for a 17-year-old.

No wonder children are growing up obsessed with their body images. The adults are telling them they should.

This isn't new. A few years ago, an all-girls school in Kansas City made waves when the school's photo company slimmed down the faces and bodies of the students _ without their permission.

One senior who had grown to accept her "big cheeks" said she hardly recognized her altered picture, saying she felt like she was looking at her "prettier twin sister." Let that sink in for a moment.

In another case, a mom in Australia finally realized why her 8-year-old son's school picture looked so odd _ because the company had photoshopped in his missing front teeth.

"Surely we have lost the plot when we start photoshopping an 8 year old's gappy grin," Angela Pickett wrote on her blog.

She said she was "baffled." I was actually irritated.

I wanted to tell the photo company that my daughter is beautiful exactly the way she is.

And not just beautiful, but smart, independent, creative and entrepreneurial _ and I don't need some company giving her a list of all the possible physical imperfections she might consider photoshopping away.

I mean, I have to imagine that there are any number of kids who never worried that the whites of their eyes weren't white enough ... until offered the chance to photographically bleach them.

Pediatric psychologist Dr. Beth Long, the interim chief of behavioral health at Nemours Children's Health in Orlando, said the retouching offers play into kids' worst fears. "This immediately sends a message that we need to alter our presentation," she said, "during a period in their lives that is so critical in developing identity."

In many ways, this is already the world of a 21st-century teen _ an Instagram, Snapchat society where kids constantly share photos of themselves using filter and photo technologies that allow them to change their appearances quicker than any photo company can.

In fact, Luke Stewart, vice president of Dean Stewart Photography _ the Brevard County company that handles photos for schools throughout Central Florida, including my daughter's _ said that, while his company won't thin out students, customers expect many of the other photoshop options.

"The customers come to us with a perspective that photoshop can fix anything," he said.

And he does mean anything. Parents once asked for his company to remove the piercings from their child _ but only in the copies they wanted to give to family members. The piercings stayed in the yearbook pics.

"Maybe grandma didn't want to see it," he supposed. "Remember, most of the time, it's not the child making the request. It's the parent. And one thing we don't do is argue with mama."

It's hard to argue with that from a business perspective.

I guess I get cleaning up temporary skin conditions. Still, Long said she would still rather see companies respond to requests for photoshopping, rather than offer them as a laundry list of physical flaws that kids may not have even considered they had.

Besides, adolescence is messy. Braces, bad haircuts and missing teeth are part of growing up.

In my senior picture, I had ridiculous orange hair, thanks to a summer of lifeguarding and ... well ... Sun-In. I had to own that.

I don't suffer any delusions that we can or should put the photoshop genie back in the bottle. Instead, the best thing we can do is what Long suggested _ remind our children that they are loved. And beautiful. Both inside and out.

Remind them that they don't need to live up to anyone else's standards for beauty, whether it's a magazine cover or a friend's retouched yearbook photo.

I think my daughter knows that. When I asked her if she had considered getting any of the retouches, she just shrugged and said: "I don't really care about any of that."

Smart girl.

Smart, beautiful girl.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Statement on SB 20-79 on mayoral appointment

By FRANCISCO M. BORJA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I will not comment on rumors but will address why I have introduced Senate Bill 20-79. First, this legislation was drafted for consideration shortly after the untimely passing of the Northern Islands mayor Jerome Aldan back in February when the succeeding mayor essentially replaced all the employees who were part of the Jerome Aldan administration.

Many of those employees had the expectation of being employed for four years and took out bank loans and entered into other financial commitments based on that expectation. Their abrupt termination and non-renewal of contracts had a very negative impact on their lives and their families. This bill was drafted after those employees came to us asking for help. We couldn't help them then, but we can now ensure that the unexpected death of an elected mayor, especially in situations where more than half of the term has passed, doesn't translate into hardship for those who voted to elect that mayor to begin with.

The other point of consideration is to ensure that there is continuity. As someone who has served as mayor, I have first-hand knowledge of the difficulties and challenges that comes with starting or transitioning to a new administration. Halfway through a mayoral term, policies, initiatives and projects are already well on the way and it would be highly disruptive, costly, and detrimental if those who are tasked with their completion are uprooted and replaced with those who now have to play catch-up or worse, decide halfway through a project that it is not a priority of the new administration. If you look at approaches to mayoral succession taken by major U.S. cities, you will not find a situation where you have a losing candidate assume the position when the mayor steps down. In fact, in the city of Rochester, N.Y., the succeeding appointment must be from the same party, which speaks directly to the understanding that there is the expectation that there will be continuity in terms of policy.

Our review of other jurisdictions finds that succession rules can be broken down in three categories: they are either appointed by the City Council, the successor is the City Council president, or is an appointee of the mayor. And, depending on the amount of time left on the term, these appointments are either for the remainder of the term or until such time that a special election is held.

Our Constitution also provides for a succession rule for our Executive Branch. When a governor dies, he is succeeded by his lieutenant governor. The two top executive positions is assumed by someone who is already elected by the people. The reason for this is to provide continuity, at least for the expected four years of a gubernatorial or mayoral term.

I know that there is some concern with the current language in the bill in as far as the appointment process but those are issues that we can address as we entertain the bill. Maintaining status quo, however, is not option. A vacancy in the House or the Senate seat does not have the same impact as a vacancy in the mayoral seat for a municipality. I don't think there can be anything more unrepresentative of the people than a law providing for someone to assume a position whom the people have already decided that they don't want as their mayor.

Francisco M. Borja is a senator in the 29th CNMI Legislature.

Being Muslim is…

By MAHEEN HAQ
THE BALTIMORE SUN

For the past year, I've been living in Baltimore, where I managed to forget what it felt like to be different. But moving back to Hagerstown this summer reminded me of the intense Islamophobia that has intoxicated the United States.

For those of you who don't know what it's like to be a Muslim in rural America, let me brief you:

Being Muslim is driving in your car and being flipped off just for existing.

Being Muslim is heading to your brother's wedding, lost in the excitement, when you hear a string of curse words being launched at you.

Being Muslim is feeling like an exotic animal at the zoo, when you hear the words, directed at you: "I've never seen one in real life, ewwww."

Being Muslim is going to the mall with your friends only to hear the lady next to you complain to her husband because of your presence in the store. It is pretending not to notice that she is staring at you as you hear her tell her husband that she wishes she could punch you in the face.

Being Muslim is feeling obliged to look as non-threatening and amicable as possible. It is feeling the need to change yourself, change your mood so other people feel more comfortable.

It is fear in your heart.

It is words of resistance dancing on your tongue that you just can't manage to get out.

It is trying to apologize for crimes you didn't commit.

It is being called a terrorist despite being so terrified.

I don't worry about myself. I worry about my brothers and sisters, I worry about our youth who have had to grow up with such intense bigotry.

Last week, a 9-year-old girl came up to me with a bright and beautiful smile on her face. "Salaam (an Islamic greeting of peace), I was just wondering, what I should say if someone calls me a terrorist?"

I told her about empowerment, confidence and fighting for justice. I told her about MLK and our prophet (peace be upon him) and the thousands of battles that people have led before us. I told her to resist and, as Eleanor Roosevelt said, "no one can make you feel inferior without your consent." I told her about loving herself and her identity. I told her when someone calls you a terrorist, you do not laugh it off as a joke, you don't try to smile and pretend nothing happened, you don't accept the label that is being placed on you. You resist. You break free. And when the world tries to tie you down, when it tries to put a tape on your mouth, you scream that much louder.

As I was telling her all of this I realized that I am the height of hypocrisy. I said all of these words to her but I have failed to implement them in my life.

I forgot how to fight. How to be unapologetically Muslim, unapologetically confident, empowered and passionate. But experience is the greatest teacher, and I am a pretty good student.

I will no longer keep that smile plastered on my face, continue to ignore, continue to pretend. To do so, would fly in the face of those famous words in the Declaration of Independence that launched our country 241 years ago: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

With all of its pain, bigotry and heartbreak, I still love the United States. And I have faith that one day, those words will ring true for all of us.

Maheen Haq (ham14@umbc.edu) is a student at University of Maryland Baltimore County. She wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

GOP

From Page 12

House Speaker Paul Ryan has said the same. And once their tax-cut plan starts escalating the deficit, they'll have their wonderful excuse to do very unwise things.

If the GOP hurries enough on its tax plan, it might force the nation to choke down these changes, so different from what Trump promised in the campaign. But that won't force Americans to stomach obvious unfairness, or the politicians who created it, forever.

(c) 2017 Newsday

Don't shed a tear for Matt Lauer

By ELLEN GRAY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Before we lose another moment feeling bad or sad or mad about Matt Lauer, or Charlie Rose, or Bill O'Reilly, or whatever guy next loses a high-paying job over allegations of conduct unbecoming a decent human being, could we talk about the women?

Not just the women who've come forward to accuse these men, but the ones who worked—and maybe bantered—beside them, and who lately have been left to pick up the pieces.

It was hard enough watching Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell go through this—was it really only last week?—but Savannah Guthrie, reaching out to grab the hand of her "Today" co-host Hoda Kotb, had to summon up a brief, brave smile before announcing Lauer's firing on Wednesday morning. Because smiling, and looking relatable, is as much a part of Guthrie's job as delivering the news, sad or otherwise.

Declaring herself heartbroken, she needed to maintain the impression that these people whom millions wake up with every morning are truly a family while also showing support for the unnamed colleague whose accusation led to the ouster of a member of that family.

Guthrie went to journalism school and got her law degree from Georgetown, but who signs up for this?

And yet TV newswomen have long had to play by a different set of rules, the ones that dictate that women who've pursued advanced training in, say, meteorology must also look good in cocktail attire, that aging is tolerated only to the point that it becomes obvious, and that lack of on-air chemistry with the apparently indispensable male co-anchor is a firing offense.

Meanwhile, Lauer and Al Roker got to be bald on TV.

What Lauer doesn't get, though, is the presumption of innocence he'd be granted in a criminal case. I know it must seem to some men, in and out of the public eye, that the rules have been changed mid-game. But the rules were always there. They just weren't enforced.

Those rules that govern the appearance and behavior of women—even on morning shows whose audiences are predominantly female—didn't come about only because some of the men calling the shots are sexist pigs.

They're based on a cruel calculation of what viewers will tolerate.

According to U.S. News & World Report, "Today" earned $509 million in ad revenue last year, more than any other morning show, though ABC's "Good Morning America" attracts more viewers.

Advertisers had to have been part of NBC News' calculations. When Bill O'Reilly was let go from Fox News seven months ago, it was capitalism at work, his ouster coming only after advertisers started fleeing "The O'Reilly Factor," eager to avoid controversy in the wake of the sexual-harassment allegations against him.

And not standing between the company and the money? That's the only rule that applies to everyone.

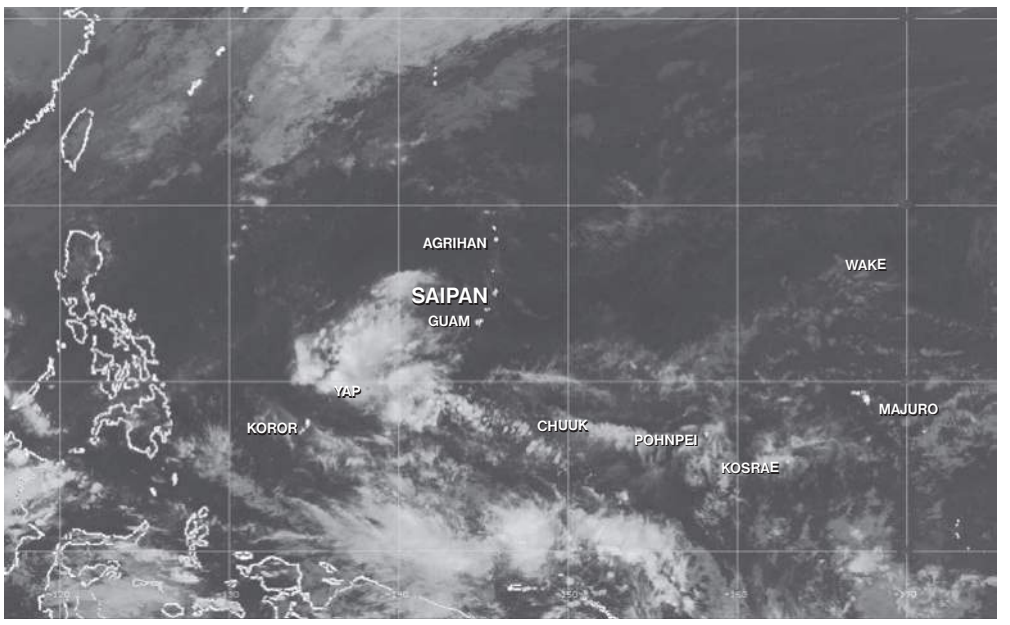
Ellen Gray is the television critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may email her at graye@phillynews.com.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is passing south of 10N today and a piece of the northern side moved a bit closer than originally forecast. As a result, there were some more showers and thunderstorms mainly for Guam and Rota on Saturday. These could continue into this morning before the system moves away and we should return to a drier pattern this afternoon with the mid levels drying out through Monday. Another weak disturbance will pass to the south around midweek bringing an increase in clouds, before drying is back for the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 69°
London	Sunny	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	52° / 44°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	46° / 41°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	43° / 30°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	71° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	32° / 21°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	55° / 44°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:47 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.59
8:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
2:09 PM	LOW TIDE	1.02
7:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	-	6:41 am	6:30 pm
Tuesday	-	7:46 am	7:32 pm
Wednesday	-	8:49 am	8:35 pm
Thursday	-	9:48 am	9:37 pm
Friday	-	10:43 am	10:37 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Villarmero, Bunts-Anderson win app contest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Daniel Villarmero and Chenoa Bunts-Anderson of Marianas High School have been named the district-level winners of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge.

The Villarmero and Bunts-Anderson team bested 12 other submissions in the Northern Mariana's district-level competition, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

"All of this year's entries to the app challenge were very creative and innovative—a great showing for the promise of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education in the Northern Marianas," Sablan said. "Every one of the students who dreamed up a concept and programmed an app can be proud of their work."

Selection of the winning entry was made by judges Renee Bochman of the tech company LevelTrigger and Marc Boumedine of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Villarmero and Bunts-Anderson's app, called "The Student Companion," is Web-based and gives students a set of tools to help with their studies. Tools include a task manager with reminders, and a relaxation page that utilizes calming images and soothing music to help students rest during study breaks.

The two MHS seniors worked as a team on "The Student Companion," as did most of the 22 students who entered their work in the app challenge.

Villarmero and Bunts-Anderson will now receive national recognition and their app will be eligible for display in the U.S. Capitol.

Along with winners of the app challenge from across the country, the Marianas team will also be invited to attend the House of Code reception, scheduled for early spring next year in Washington, D.C., where they will be honored for their work.

Also receiving notable mentions: in second place, The Thought Bubble by Joanie Paraiso of Mount Carmel School, is an app that assists creative writers with writing tips and story ideas. In third place, Pocket Homework by Tawnie Manibusan and Cassidy Torres of Mount Carmel School, is an assignments tracking application specifically designed for student's smartphones.

This is the third year that Marianas students have accepted Sablani's invitation to take the Congressional App Challenge. The competition is open to all high school, middle school, and elementary students and is intended to encourage student creativity and participation in the STEM fields. Students may enter apps for a variety of platforms, such as Web browsers, smartphones, or desktop and laptop computers. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daniel Villarmero and Chenoa Bunts-Anderson have been named winners of the Northern Mariana Islands 2017 Congressional App Competition.

ON THE NET

To view:

- "The Student Companion" go to https://youtu.be/JiTV6ZKierc
- "The Thought Bubble " go to https://youtu.be/Ze6i-hfLrP4
- "Pocket Homework" go to https://youtu.be/lh-CrnJ2ajl

Kilili andRadewagen team up on anti-sexual harassment bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) and his insular area colleague Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) have teamed up to co-sponsor the Me Too Congress Act, a bill that makes sexual harassment complaints in Congress easier for victims to file and for the public to see.

Introduced by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) earlier this month, the Me Too Congress Act also makes members of Congress personally liable for any settlement payments arising from harassment claims and requires members and their staff to take annual anti-harassment training.

"To make this a truly bipartisan effort, Ms. Speier asked that co-sponsors come on board as a pair, one Democrat, one Republican," Sablan explained. "The Noah's Ark system.

"I want to thank my Republican colleague, Ms. Radewagen, for accepting my invitation to join me in supporting the effort to lift the veil of secrecy that has existed here in Congress for too long on sexual harassment and to make it easier for victims to come forward."

"There's simply no place for harassment in the halls of Congress, or anywhere else," said Amata. "I welcome this bipartisan effort to help protect employees. We want the highest professional standards of decency practiced in the U.S. Capitol."

In dramatic testimony before introducing her legislation, Speier reported her own experience as a congressional staff person in the 1970s, being sexually harassed by her chief of staff. She said that she knew of two sitting members of Congress guilty of the behavior and revealed the existence of a special House account from which payments have been made to victims of harassment.

Shortly after, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) issued a directive, effective House-wide, requiring sexual harassment training. And on Thursday last week, the House voted to confirm this requirement.

"I already require everyone in the Marianas congressional office—including myself—to take the sexual harassment training offered by the chief administrative officer of the House," Sablan said. "So, I applaud the speaker's action. I also think that this should be required by law for all House offices, which the Me Too Congress Act does."

Sablan's office manual also sets out detailed procedures to follow for anyone who believes they have been subject to sexual harassment or harassment based on race, religion, age, disability, color, or military status.

"No one should have to choose between their livelihood and being abused, bullied, or worse in their workplace," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

Kilili, Walberg focus on national pension crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing last week on the financial challenges facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.

The PBGC is a federal agency that insures private-sector retirement plans nationwide. Plans pay a premium for the insurance; but, as more plans are revealed to be underfunded, demands on PBGC to provide backup have exceeded the financial capacity of the agency to protect retirees.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), a ranking member of the subcommittee, joined subcommittee chair Tim Walberg (R-Michigan) at the Thursday hearing.

"I believe we should be guided by the simple principle that it is not the fault of the workers or the retirees' that their pension plan is on the brink of insolvency," Sablan noted in his opening statement at the hearing.

"These Americans worked a lifetime and earned their pension. American workers don't want a bailout, they just want the pension promise that was made to them to be upheld."

According to the PBGC's annual report for 2017, the multiemployer pension programs backed by the government insurer have $2 billion in assets to cover $67 billion in pension liabilities—an increase of $6 billion year-over-year. The agency is looking to Congress for help before it runs out of money in 2025. A pension collapse could have a negative ripple effect throughout the U.S. economy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HELP Subcommittee ranking member Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), left, questions Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. director W. Thomas Reeder Jr. on how pension promises made to hundreds of thousands of retirees in multiemployer pension programs can be protected, as subcommittee chair Tim Walberg (R-Michigan) look on. The hearing last week looks at the financial challenges facing the PBGC. The federal agency has $2 billion in assets, but $67 billion in pension liabilities.

Multiemployer plans are set up by two or more employers and a union, typically in the same or related industries, such as construction or transportation. The plans are run by a board of trustees, with an equal number of employer and union trustees.

After almost a year of work, meeting with pension managers and with employee and retiree representatives, Sablan became an original co-sponsor of a legislative solution that could prevent multiemployer plans from failing, while safeguarding retirees' hard-earned pensions.

Thursday's hearing was an opportunity for PBGC director W. Thomas Reeder Jr. to comment on the multiemployer problem in general and on specific legislative solutions, such as H.R. 4444, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, which Sablan has backed.

Sablan also met with Reeder separately last Tuesday in preparation for Thursday's hearing.

With increasing seniority, the Northern Marianas congressman has gained increasing responsibilities to take on national issues.

"The multiemployer pension crisis is one of the most complex issues I have faced in my nine years in Congress," Sablan said. "With billions of dollars and the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees at stake there is a serious need for action and little room for error.

"Even though my own constituents in the Marianas are not directly affected by loss of pensions, the economic fallout from the collapse of large-scale pension funds would affect the pocketbooks of all Americans everywhere.

"Addressing this looming crisis and being part of the solution is one of the responsibilities we have as members of the American political family." ***(PR)***

GGAP concert raises $10K for MSF, animals advocacy group

A donation from the Country House Restaurant in Garapan is presented to Saipan Cares for Animals.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of the Country House Restaurant in Garapan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A G*GAP concert last Nov. 10 and 11 at the Country House Restaurant in Garapan generated over $10,000 that will benefit the organization Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) and the Saipan Cares for Animals.

The restaurant's annual charity concert earned $10,551 this year and the amount would be divided between the two.

According to Nippon General Trading Corp. general manager Katsuko Kato, the event was first started to help victims of the Japan tsunami over three years ago; it has since become on of their staple events. Nippon General Trading Corp. operates the Country House Restaurant.

This year's event generated the participation of about 100 individuals from Japan, sponsors, and residents during the two-night concert. Many guests were touched by Country House's initiative to continue the concert fundraiser and a few of the guests were appreciative of the live entertainment and great food.

G*GAP is a popular Japanese group.

"The fundraising event was a success and we thank our friends for their support, Triple J Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., and Country House Japan," said Kato. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

The G*GAP band performs last Nov. 10 and 11 at the Country House Restaurant in Garapan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Melodious underwater garden: Rota

Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee, left, leads 14 professional divers and photographers on a tour of Rota in November 2017.
MVA

A "melodious underwater garden" is how Korean free divers and photographers are describing the popular dive site Coral Garden on Rota.

The 14-member team, led by Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee, toured Rota and Saipan on Nov. 12-16, 2017.

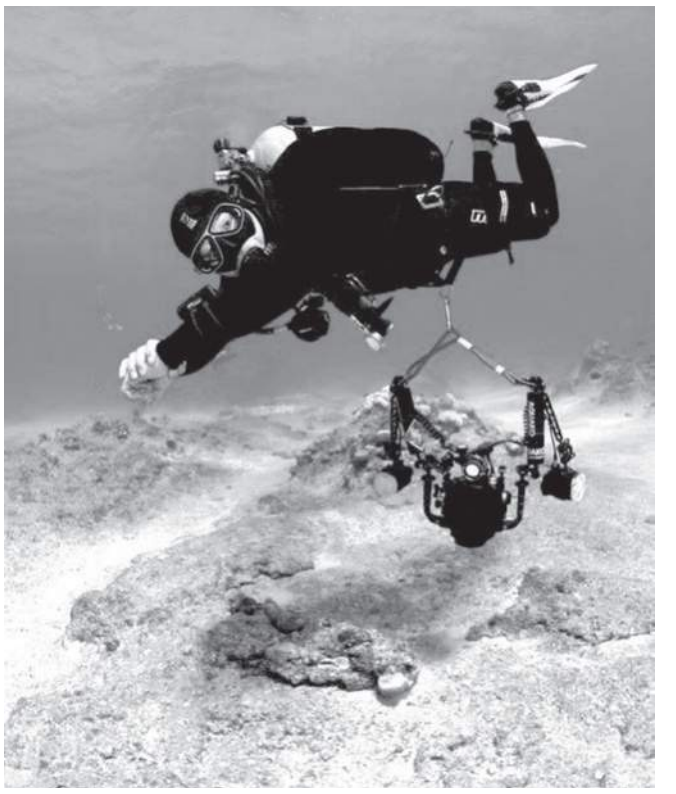
The underwater photography project was "orchestrated" by the Marianas Visitors Authority to position the Marianas as an ideal destination for the water leisure activities, especially underwater.

"The professional free divers and photographers visited diving spots and attractions of the Marianas to experience both our breathtakingly beautiful underwater scenes and our welcoming and colorful indigenous cultures," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "I was told all the participants had great admiration for our uncontaminated ocean and wonderful natural tourist attractions.

"On Rota, the team had three full days to experience the Rota blue. The team was overpowered with the beauty of the underwater scene there. Some said they have never seen such stunning natural coral reefs and underwater creatures—like the Christmas Tree Worm—that Rota has."

The group also visited Teteto Beach, Senborn Yashi, Songsong Village, Swimming Hole, and Songsong Lookout to explore the untouched natural beauty of Rota and learn about its history and culture. On Saipan, the divers and photographers visited Grotto, Laulau Beach, Obyan Beach and Naftan Point for underwater photography projects, along with visiting Ladder Beach, Forbidden Island, Banzai Cliff, Mt. Tapochau, and Micro Beach to capture the beauty of Saipan's land and sea.

On and offline underwater photo exhibition with Lee will be held on MVA's social media channels and the public venue in Korea. The tour was also supported by Aqua Resort Club and Rota Resort & Country Club. ***(PR)***



The underwater visibility of Rota frames a photographer from Korea in November 2017.
MVA

Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee and 14 professional divers and photographers take a commemorative photo on a tour of Rota in November 2017.
MVA

Make-A-Wish child lights Hyatt's Christmas tree

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISA
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REPORTER

A Make-A-Wish Foundation child lighted Hyatt Regency Saipan's new Christmas tree last Friday to kick off the hotel resort's holiday season.

According to the Hyatt Regency Saipan director of finance Yosh Gabaldon, Hyatt has been hosting the Christmas tree lighting ceremony for 30 years, using the same plastic tree.

"This is our kickoff for the holiday season. We actually retired the tree that we've had for over 30 years and we got a new one," said Gabaldon.

Preparations for the lighting ceremony took approximately two months. Friday's event included live performances by the Hopwood Middle School HDMP band and over 30 select Hopwood students sang Christmas carols.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam and NMI Chapter was also invited. This year, Make-A-Wish child Kei'ani Hofschneider was asked to light the tree.

Hofschneider is 8 years old and has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes mellitus. She is currently in the process of getting her wish to visit Disneyworld granted.

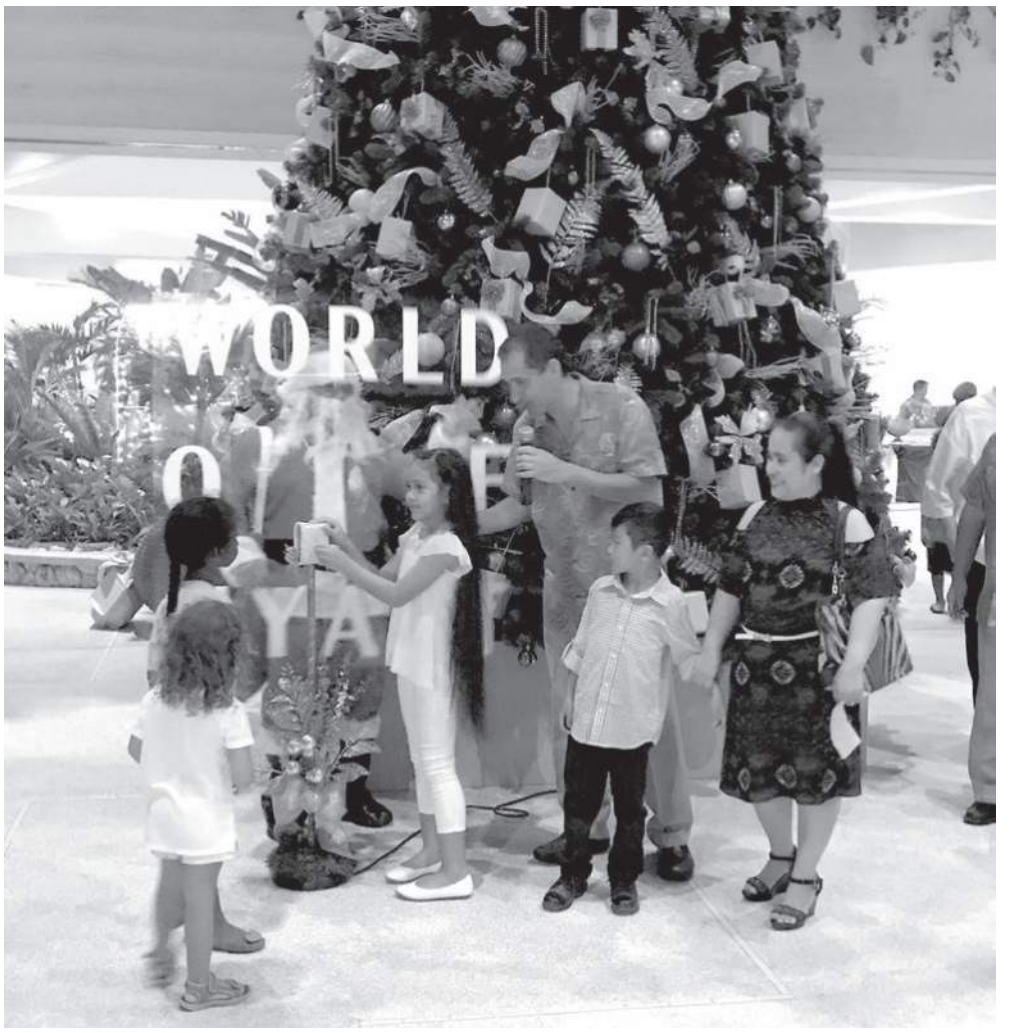
Hofshneider's mother, Sirena Santos, said she feels honored that her daughter was chosen to light the enormous tree displayed at the Hyatt lobby.

"It's not everyday she gets to do this. It's truly an honor," she said.

According to Santos, although her daughter has a life-threatening condition, that doesn't stop her from having a normal childhood.

Make-A-Wish Foundation board member Kanae Quinn said it is a really nice gesture of Hyatt to recognize these children and allow them to take part in something special.

Gabaldon said the lighting ceremony isn't just a good way to end the year but is also a treat for the workers to see the amount of hard work everyone invested in preparing for the holidays.



Make-Wish Foundation children prepare to light Hyatt Regency Saipan's enormous Christmas tree last Friday at the hotel's lobby.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Stabbing suspect allegedly admits attack on driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 24-year-old man accused of stabbing a taxi driver in As Lito allegedly admitted to the crime, saying he was in pain over the death of his sister.

Michael Salesy Ilo Gioda was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo last week for a bail hearing on charges of aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

A $10,000 cash bail was imposed for Gioda's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 6 at 9am.

Police said the victim, a Chinese male, sustained two lacerations below the jaw, laceration on the left collarbone, a stab wound on the lower right chest, and minor cuts on the left ring finger. He was released after being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Investigation showed that the victim received a phone call from a man at about 6:09pm last Monday, requesting to be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office along Beach Road, Chalan Laulau.

The man, later identified as Gioda, sat behind in the left rear passenger of the victim's car and asked to be dropped off in San Antonio. While en route, Gioda received a text message and told the victim to drive him instead to Hollywood Video in As Lito.

When the victim parked his car in front of Hollywood Video, Gioda allegedly began attacking him with a shiny metal object measuring about 3 inches long. The driver defended himself by fighting off the assailant. This resulted in Gioda getting down from the car and running away.

The following day, Tuesday, another police detective called a mobile cellular phone number which the victim claimed was the number the suspect had called him from. The detective then learned that Gioda was the person who called the victim's phone that Monday night.

In an interview with police on Tuesday, Gioda confessed that he called for an illegal taxi to pick him up from the Saipan Mayor's Office.

According to Gioda, he asked the driver to head to San Antonio, but then he changed his mind and told the driver to proceed to B&F Car Rental, which is located in the same building where Hollywood Video is.

Gioda stated that when they reached the parking lot of B&F Car Rental he just took out a pocketknife and stabbed the driver. After stabbing the driver, Gioda ran north and threw the knife into the jungle.

Assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein was appointed as counsel for Gioda. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid appeared for the government at the hearing.

Interior gives Bikini leaders powers over resettlement trust fund

» Bikinians to determine own spending after 35 years

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has authorized full decision-making powers for the mayor and Council of the Kili-Bikini-Ejit local government in the Republic of the Marshall Islands over the annual budget of the Bikini Resettlement Trust Fund for and on behalf of the people of Kili, Bikini, and Ejit atolls.

"One of Interior Secretary Zinke's priorities is to restore trust and ensure that sovereignty means something," said Domenech. "Today, we recognize the leadership role and responsibility for which the people of Bikini have elected the mayor and council leaders and henceforth, will defer to them to fully assume a decision-making role over the Resettlement Trust Fund. It is appropriate that decision-making for the well-being of the people of Bikini be transferred to people of Bikini, rather than be dependent upon policy makers in Washington, D.C. However, our decision today in no way precludes any future consultations between our offices, as partners, for the benefit of the people of Bikini."

For more than three decades, Interior has exercised the right of veto over expenditures from the resettlement trust fund in accordance with the expressed wishes of successive, incumbent KBE local governments. In 2017, the mayor and 15 of the 18 members of the KBE local government council signed Resolution 2017-39, expressing gratitude to Interior for decades of work on KBE local government matters, but no longer wanting Interior to exercise this right of veto and requesting to have greater independence in decision-making to pursue income-generating projects to strengthen the fund.

Following this request submitted by the KBE mayor and council to review a 1988 amended resettlement trust fund agreement that guides the governance of the trust fund, the Interior's solicitor office made the determination that Interior may release its former veto authority. The veto was officially relinquished on Nov. 21, 2017, following the assistant secretary's Nov. 16 letter to the mayor of Bikini.

Interior continues to reserve its right on two provisions provided under U.S. Public Law 100-446, 102 Stat. 1798 (Sept. 27, 1988): 1) to ask the Kili-Bikini-Ejit local government, in any one year, for information on whether the KBE local government is "not exceeding $2,000,000 for projects on Kili and Ejit"; and 2) to report to the Congress on future funding needs on Bikini Atoll as directed by the U.S. Congress "one year prior to the completion of the rehabilitation and resettlement program."

Enacted by the U.S. Congress on Oct. 16, 1982, the resettlement trust fund was established in recognition of the destruction of Bikini Atoll by U.S. atomic testing and implemented under:

1. An Oct. 26, 1988, amended trust agreement between the Department of the Interior and the KBE local government and

2. An Oct. 5, 1990, memorandum of agreement between the department and the KBE local government

The resettlement trust fund is currently valued at approximately $59,000,000. ***(PR)***

Tinian to join global candlelight vigil

Together with its 2nd Annual "Tree of Angels," Tinian will hold its 2nd Annual Candlelight Vigil for its dearly departed loved ones on Dec. 10, 2017, at 6:45pm.

The community is invited to join and meet at the Tinian Gymnasium and walk to the San Jose Church.

Candles will be lit at 7pm, together with Saipan and Guam—a candlelight vigil from time zone to time zone, as one country light theirs, and the other country blows out theirs.

The event is dedicated to children of any age who have left this world too early.

Last year, Tania Marie Mendiola held the event on Tinian for the first time due to her and her family's loss of her 16-year-old son, Giovanni. This year, Mendiola includes the loss of her nephew, Giovanni Sgambelluri. Mendiola nicknamed her son Gino, after her nephew.

Mendiola's goals with the annual candlelight vigil is to bring grieving families together and keep their loved ones' memories alive, most importantly during the holiday season.

The community of Tinian joins in collaboration with the Compassionate Friends-Saipan Chapter, Team Koka and the Voices of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter. The 2nd Annual "Tree of Angels" by Team Koka will take place right after the candlelight vigil. The families will be receiving their ornaments that they purchased and be placed on the Christmas tree that will be displayed at the San Jose Church. ***(PR)***

CNMI Executive Branch Channel launched

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced Friday the launch of the CNMI Executive Branch Channel on Channel 14.

The channel is run by the Office of the Governor, in coordination with the Commonwealth's departments and agencies. Torres noted that the channel will provide general updates, announcements, and programs for the community.

"The CNMI Executive Branch Channel will be on 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will feature highlights from my office and our government's departments and agencies. We'll soon be broadcasting proclamations, public hearings, and meetings for the community on all three islands. Our goal will continue to increase awareness and public efficacy by adding this channel as another media source for our community. I want to personally thank Docomo Pacific for helping us get this channel up and running and for televising this broadcast. We hope you'll join us on the airwaves soon," Torres said. ***(PR)***

World

Trump alters story on why he fired Flynn

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump changed his story Saturday on why he fired Michael Flynn as his national security adviser, now suggesting he knew at the time that Flynn had lied to the FBI as well as to Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Russians during the presidential transition.

That was a turnabout from his initial explanations that Flynn had to go because he hadn't been straight with Pence about those contacts. Lying to the FBI is a crime, and one that Flynn acknowledged Friday in pleading guilty and agreeing to cooperate with the special counsel's Russia investigation.

Trump's tweet: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

Amid questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance Saturday evening between the president himself and the tweet. One person familiar with the situation said the tweet was actually crafted by John Dowd, one of the president's personal attorneys. Dowd declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press on Saturday night.

In another email wrinkle in the investigation into Trump's ties to Russia, The New York Times reported Saturday that emails among top Trump transition officials suggested that Flynn was in close contact with other senior members of the transition team before and after he spoke to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. A Dec. 29 email from K.T. McFarland, a transition adviser to Trump, suggested that Russian sanctions announced by the Obama administration had been aimed at discrediting Trump's victory.

AP
President Donald Trump walks up the steps of Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base in Md., Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017.

She wrote the sanctions could also make it more difficult for Trump to ease tensions with Russia, "which has just thrown the U.S.A. election to him," she wrote in the emails obtained by the Times. A White House attorney told the newspaper McFarland only meant that Democrats were portraying it that way.

It's unclear why Trump would cite lying to the FBI as a reason for firing Flynn. Doing so suggests the president knew at the time that Flynn had done something that is against the law, and therefore the investigation could not be as frivolous as he's been portraying.

It's also unclear how he would know that, if information about Russian contacts had not reached him, as he has been implying in his own defense.

Flynn left the White House in February, only acknowledging that he had given an incomplete account to Pence of his conversations with Kislyak. After Trump forced Flynn out, he asked FBI Director James Comey to end the bureau's probe in the matter, according to Comey's account. Comey refused, and Trump fired him, too.

Then-White House spokesman Sean Spicer said after Flynn's firing that it was the result of a "trust issue" and the White House counsel's office had determined there was not a legal issue.

"Whether or not he actually misled the vice president was the issue, and that was ultimately what led to the president asking for and accepting the resignation of Gen. Flynn," Spicer told reporters on Feb. 14. "That's it, pure and simple. It was a matter of trust."

Trump has been publicly dismissive of Comey and of special counsel Robert Mueller's continuing investigation, and was often generous in his appraisal of Flynn, except to say his adviser could not stay on the job after misleading his vice president.

At the time, Pence said Trump was justified in firing Flynn because Flynn had lied to him. Neither Trump nor Pence indicated concern then that the FBI had not been told the true story.

Pence, who served as head of Trump's transition, has not publicly commented on Flynn's plea.

Trump turned to Twitter again later Saturday night, railing about why Flynn was prosecuted but his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, was not for her alleged misdeeds.

He tweeted: "So General Flynn lies to the FBI and his life is destroyed, while Crooked Hillary Clinton, on that now famous FBI holiday "interrogation" with no swearing in and no recording, lies many times...and nothing happens to her? Rigged system, or just a double standard?"

ASIAN BRIEFS

13 dead, 2 missing after boat capsizes in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—At least 13 people were dead and two missing on Sunday after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a refueling vessel and capsized, the coast guard said. An official from the Korea Coast Guard said seven people were rescued and the two missing included the boat's captain. He said 22 people were aboard the 9.8-ton fishing boat that capsized after colliding with the 336-ton refueling vessel in waters off the port city of Incheon. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. The refueling vessel did not suffer damage. President Moon Jae-in ordered authorities to deploy as many helicopters and other aircraft as possible to search for the missing, according to his office. The coast guard official said 19 coast guard and naval vessels and five aircraft including helicopters were dispatched to the site. Authorities were questioning the crew of the refueling vessel to determine the cause of the collision. South Korea has seen its share of significant maritime accidents in recent years, including the 2014 sinking of a ferry that killed more than 300 people, mostly schoolchildren. More than 50 fishermen died or went missing months later after their vessel sank in the Bering Sea.

Pope defends Myanmar silence, says he spoke truth in private

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday defended his silence in Myanmar over the plight of Rohingya refugees, saying a public denunciation would have "slammed the door in the face" of his hosts and prevented his message from being heard. Francis said he chose instead to speak in general terms about human rights in public so that he could engage more frankly in private about what the U.N. has said is a textbook campaign of ethnic cleansing against Myanmar's Muslim minority. Speaking to reporters en route home from Myanmar and Bangladesh, Francis said he was "very, very satisfied" that his message had been received in his private meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar's powerful military chief, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing. "It's true I didn't have the pleasure of slamming the door in their face publicly with a denunciation," Francis said. "But I had the satisfaction of dialogue, and letting the other side dialogue, and in this way the message arrived." Human rights groups and Rohingya themselves had expressed disappointment that Francis had declined to even refer to the Rohingya by name, much less call out Myanmar's military for sparking Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades. Francis waited until he arrived in neighboring Bangladesh to demand the international community intervene to resolve the crisis and help Bangladesh cope with the influx of more than 620,000 refugees fleeing a military crackdown in Rakhine state. Francis finally uttered the word "Rohingya" at an emotional encounter Friday with a group of refugees who travelled from camps in Cox's Bazar to Dhaka.

Final death toll in Somalia's worst attack is 512 people

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The final death toll in October's massive truck bombing in Somalia's capital is 512 people, according to the committee tasked with looking into the country's worst-ever attack.

The final toll is a dramatic increase from previous estimates of more than 350 killed. The committee's report, obtained by The Associated Press, says another 312 people were wounded in the Mogadishu bombing and 62 people remain missing.

Only a few attacks since the ones on Sept. 11, 2001 have killed as many people, according to the Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland.

Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for the Oct. 14 attack, which struck a crowded street. Security officials said the bomb weighed between 600 kilograms and 800 kilograms (1,300 pounds and 1,700 pounds) as the extremist group's bomb-making capabilities grow.

The attack appalled Somalis, with some calling it their "9/11." The hundreds of wounded overwhelmed Mogadishu's hospitals, where many people defied traditional hesitations and rushed to donate blood. Bewildered family members picked through the rubble days afterward as hopes of finding survivors faded.

Thousands of Somalis later marched through the capital in defiance against the extremist group, while the Somali-American president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, announced a new military offensive and asked regional neighbors for assistance.

Al-Shabab, which was pushed from the capital years ago but controls large parts of rural southern and central Somalia, often attacks high-profile areas in Mogadishu. Somali intelligence officials have said the massive truck bomb was meant to target the heavily guarded airport, where several countries have embassies, but instead detonated in the crowded street after soldiers opened fire and flattened one of the truck's tires.

The Islamic extremist group, the deadliest in Africa, has been targeted this year by nearly 30 U.S. military drone strikes after the Trump administration approved expanded operations against it and declared the southern part of the Horn of Africa nation a zone of active hostilities. The U.S. now has more than 500 military personnel in Somalia.

Health & Fitness

Six-pack mommies draw fire for bragging about their no-belly pregnancies

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Pregnant celebrities who have become part of the no-baby-bump trend are drawing fire from some fans and have raised concerns among physicians who worry about everyday women taking cues from them.

By LISA GUTIERREZ
THE KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS

Recently, lingerie and fitness model Sarah Stage posted an Instagram photo of herself in a red bikini at nine months pregnant.

Her tummy had the slightest bulge, like she'd just enjoyed a big pasta lunch.

One month after giving birth to her second child by C-section, she posted another photo of herself in her white Calvin Klein bra and panties. She stood sideways to the camera to show her taut, tiny tummy.

"The combination of breastfeeding and following my nutrition guide from my website has gotten me to my pre baby weight, however we all have our own personal fitness goals and mine is to build more muscle," she wrote. "How long did you wait until you started working out after baby?"

The 33-year-old social media star has drawn fire during her pregnancy for posting photos of her no-belly pregnancy, made possible by the workout regimen she continued to follow. That's how she earned her nickname, "six-pack mom."

Stage and other pregnant celebrities who have become part of the no-bump trend continue to raise concerns among fans and physicians who worry that images of pregnant celebrities who don't look pregnant set up unrealistic expectations for ordinary mothers-to-be.

Some doctors have criticized the media for continuing to showcase celebrity moms and their tiny bumps, seemingly glorifying the look.

Gaining weight during pregnancy is natural and normal, doctors say, and dieting during pregnancy can put women at risk for premature delivery and babies with low birth weights.

Celebrities feel different pressures about their bodies and the way they look from women outside the spotlight, so it's unrealistic for other women to emulate them, British physician Tatiana Lapa told The Daily Mail.

"There are lots of benefits to keeping the baby bump from view," Lapa said. "It enables these celebs to continue work such as filming and photo shoots.

"A seemingly unchanging physique can also help minimize the scrutiny of the media. Also, avoiding excess weight gain during pregnancy means they have less to lose after the baby is born."

Lapa said she encourages all women "to focus on health and fitness rather than absolute measures of weight," she said. "The fact is, you're likely to be eating more, exercising less and retaining more water. The scales are probably going to be showing an increase and that is totally normal and healthy."

Parent Herald, a parenting publication, took notice of the growing no-bump trend last year.

"Keeping a slim figure while pregnant is achievable. What mothers must keep in mind, however, is that for this to happen, there should still be an effort to eat healthy for the sake of the baby," the magazine warned.

"It's the same principle for when doctors advise moms not to overeat and gain too much weight during the pregnancy. The bottom line is a healthy weight gain gives pregnant moms an easier time during the birth as well as recovering after birth."

British model Emma McVey has been slammed in recent weeks by people criticizing her tiny baby bump. She is due in January with her first child.

Recently she posted a photo of herself in a bikini to mark her sixth month.

According to The Mirror, she was flooded with nasty comments from people who said the picture was "depressing" and "wrong in so many ways."

"How is she 6 months pregnant I look like that after thinking about bread," joked one commenter.

Another wrote: "How on earth is there a baby in there? My stomach's 10x this size and I'm not pregnant."

Stage hit back at the people who criticized her for working out late into her pregnancy.

"As I'm nearing #8months I've wanted to share what's been on my mind. Since I've announced my second pregnancy, I've had certain 'Instagram medical experts' tell me what I should and shouldn't do," she wrote in the caption of a workout video she posted.

"And while I find some of the comments hilarious, I choose to only listen to my OBGYN and of course I also listen to MY body. If something feels off, I don't do it! I always do what's best for my growing baby and put him first!"

Stage kept up her workouts—at a lower intensity—throughout her pregnancy.

"It's a proven medical fact that continuing exercising while pregnant has many health benefits for you and baby," Stage wrote. "There are also some people who assume that since I am exercising while pregnant, that I'm obsessed with how I 'look' but in fact I'm obsessed with maintaining a healthy lifestyle that will give my baby and myself the best possible quality of life."

Exercising during pregnancy is entirely safe, Joanne Stone, the director of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Mount Sinai Health System, told People. The most important thing is for moms-to-be to do what's comfortable, she said.

"It all depends on how you feel, really," Stone told People. "There are studies that show that people who exercise have fewer pregnancy-related symptoms, so if you still feel up to it then I feel like it's great. People who exercise feel much better than people who don't exercise."

"I think it's about comfort, what feels good."

Personal Trainer

Going elliptical

Elliptical exercisers like treadmills are popular, with many people trying them first at health clubs or gyms.

How an elliptical exerciser works

Hybrid machine combining movement of a stair climber and a cross-country-ski machine

Handlebars move forward and back in straight line
Flywheel provides momentum; resistance can be adjusted
Pedals move in an ellipse (flat oval)

- *Expensive health club machines have magnetic resistance, smoother action; durable design for heavy use*
- *Home machines have friction belt on flywheel, which works well but is not as durable*

Some advantages

- Puts less strain on joints than a treadmill; useful for people with knee problems
- Exercises the weight-bearing bones of legs and back, helping protect against osteoporosis; stationary bikes and rowing machines do not
- Handlebars exercise arms, shoulders, abdominal muscles
- Easy to learn and use

Source: Consumer Reports
Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

This advertorial is sponsored by
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HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

Marianas International Film Festival on Dec. 6-8

Saipan is set to roll out its red carpet reception yet when it hosts Hollywood and Asian film industry stars, along with a large number of festival participants, for the first ever Marianas International Film Festival from Dec. 6 to 8.

The staging of the film festival is being promoted as a spotlight that will focus on the Marianas as the newest film and movie industry destination.

The MIFF is hosted by the Saipan Film Society, LCC and is sponsored by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. and Shenzhen Golden Rose Pictures Corp., in partnership with Marianas Visitors Authority and telecom firm IT&E.

MIFF was established this year, with Saipan as its permanent home.

'Glitz and glam'

The Dec. 6 to 8 festival will be a display of glitz and glamor. Organizers estimate the arrival of close to 600 festival participants.

A grand opening ceremony will be held for the MIFF participants at the grand lobby of Imperial Palace (Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan). This will be on Dec. 6.

On Dec. 7, the Young Director Supporting Plan, filmmaker, and industry forums will be held.

The public is invited to all free movie screenings of festival entries. This will be on Dec. 7. The free movie screening is from 10am to 10pm at the Regal Saipan Megaplex 7.

The façade of the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel Saipan will serve as the venue for the Dec. 8 red carpet premiere parade. This will be followed by an awards ceremony at the grand hotel lobby.

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan is a multimillion-dollar casino resort that boasts of a grand staircase, indoor LED screen and an opulent lobby, among other features of the flagship investment of the Hong Kong-based investment giant.

In Celebration of his new life

Joseph SN. Cruz

March 7, 1966 – November 26, 2017

His memories will be forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Henrietta S. Cruz
Father: †Jose R. Cruz
Mother: †Ana SN. Camacho
Stepfather: †Arthur T. Camacho

Children:
Joewayne and Tammy Cruz
Joyner S. Cruz
Jennielyn and Charlie
Molly Jane Cruz
Joseph R. Cruz III

Grandchildren:
Arianna, Avery and Alyssa
Carther & Charise
Adrian and Marcus
Alfred

Siblings:
Angelo & Librada Cruz
Vivian & Juan Carlos Viches
†Frank (Bokkongo) & Family
†Joseph C. Cruz & Family
†Hermina C. Fleming & Family
†Antonio Cruz & Family
Rosa & Antonio Sablan & Family
Rebecca Farmer & Family
Norma Cruz & Family
Dolores Cruz & Family
Edwina M. and Scott Bell & Family
Melissa C. King & Family
Jose Cruz & Family
Dr. Loreto Hocog & Family

Nieces and Nephews
Frances Ann Natividad
Annievi Aquiningoc & Family
Charle Bud Cruz
Juan Carlos Viches
Angelee Cruz & Family
Leeann Cruz & Family
Aj and Akina Cruz & Family
Lyn and Gerald Cepeda & Family

Nightly rosary is being said at San Jose Church Tinian. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Care Corporation to San Jose Church on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:30am followed by response and holy rosary.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am and Interment will follow at San Jose Cemetery.

Your presence, prayers and thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Top caliber festival jury

Saipan will shine brightly during this period, with a host of high profile Hollywood, Hong Kong, Korea, China, and Taiwan film industry players expected to arrive.

Named MIFF jury president is Hong Kong director and writer Alex Law K.Y. His most notable works include *Painted Faces*, *An Autumn's Tale*, and *Echoes of the Rainbow* that have won him the Golden Horse awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards, among others.

Hollywood writer and director Max Borenstein is also jury member. He wrote, edited, and directed international films including *Kong: Skull Island*, *Godzilla*, *Arc of Justice*, and *Seventh Son,* to name a few.

Award-winning producer and actress Kimberly Kates is also a jury member. Kates has made over 40 films and television series. She also produced 18 films. Her films have premiered at Sundance, Cannes, Toronto and Sitges.

Kates, also the founder and CEO of BSEG Holdings and Entertainment Group, has worked for all major studios, including Universal, ABC, CBS, Fox, Warner Bros., Paramount, Lionsgate, Sony, and Disney, both as a producer and actress.

» Hollywood, Asian film industry bigwigs to grace festival

She is currently developing a 10 picture-deal with Netflix through her partners at Original Films (*Fast & Furious*).

Another festival jury member is Kang Je-gyu, a highly respected writer, director and producer in South Korea. He has directed films such as *The Gingko Bed*, *Swir*, *Brotherhood,* and *Awaiting.* He has won the Blue Dragon award, Grand Bell award, and Baek Sang Art award, among others.

Another top caliber jury is China's Buting Yang. He is the former director of China Film Science and Technology Institute, deputy director of SARFT, chairman of China Film Group, chairman of China Motion Picture Association, and former chairman of China Film Promotion International, among other notable positions he has previously held.

Yang has directed the national science and technology project *"Digital Processing System of High Precision Continuous Image Application Research"* (Digital Film Production Technology). It earned him honors and awards for Scientific and Technological Progress, Hi-Tech Demonstration Project, China Movie Awards and World Media Contribution Award of America. He has presided over construction projects of national digital film production base.

Well-known Japanese actress Ryoko Nakano is another jury member. Nakano's works include *Lady Ogin*, *Manhunt*, *Never Give Up*, *Writhing Tongue*. She also is a Peace ambassador.

Completing the MIFF jury panel is Taiwan's T'ung Wang, a film director and art designer. He has directed over 100 films, among them *Blue Gate Crossing*, *Red Persimmon*, *Banana Paradise*, *Journey to the West,* and *Run Away*. His credits comprise numerous accolades that include the coveted Best Director award at the Golden Horse Awards and Best Picture award at the Shanghai International Film Festival. (***PR***)

NBC source: No payout for Lauer on rest of his contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)— NBC is standing firm against giving fired "Today" host Matt Lauer a payout on the multimillion-dollar salary he's leaving behind, according to a person at the network.

Lauer, said to have earned around $25 million a year, reportedly is negotiating to receive the remainder of his salary for the current contract that runs through 2018 and made him one of TV's highest-paid journalists.

But NBC won't agree, said the person, who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because a personnel matter was involved.

Some NBC News employees who raised the question of Lauer's compensation at a staff meeting were told that he was fired "for cause" and wouldn't be paid beyond his last day worked, according to a Variety report Friday.

A representative for Lauer didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Also Friday, NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack said an internal review into Lauer's alleged sexual misconduct is underway, including how it happened and why it wasn't stopped earlier.

In a company-wide memo released publicly, Lack said those are among the questions NBC employees are asking in the wake of the "Today" host's firing for what Lack labeled "appalling behavior."

A team of NBCUniversal legal and human resources leaders have started a "thorough and timely review" of what occurred and how the company can foster greater transparency and mutual respect, Lack said in the memo.

Lauer

"At the conclusion of the review we will share what we've learned, no matter how painful, and act on it," he said.

His memo didn't address if the report will be made public. NBC News publicists didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Reiterating comments from a memo he sent Wednesday, Lack said the top priority is to create a safe workplace environment and that unacceptable actions are "met with consequences, no matter who the offender."

NBC's announcement Tuesday that Lauer was being fired for "inappropriate sexual behavior" meant that the network was cutting loose the popular, long-established star of its highly lucrative morning show.

How much Lauer's status may have protected him from allegations is among the questions raised by observers. NBC has said current executives didn't receive any complaints before the one Monday that triggered Lauer's immediate dismissal the next day.

Two other women came forward with accusations, with one telling The New York Times that Lauer had sexually assaulted her in his office in 2001. A Variety magazine investigation outlined a pattern of alleged salacious behavior, including three women who said Lauer harassed them.

'Embarrassed' Geraldo Rivera apologizes for 'tawdry' memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — Geraldo Rivera is apologizing for a memoir published a quarter-century ago that recounts sexual experiences he says he's now "embarrassed" about.

In a tweet on Friday, Rivera, now a Fox News Channel reporter, cites his "tawdry" book and what he calls "consensual events" it recounts. He describes its tone as "distasteful" and "disrespectful." He says he's "profoundly sorry" to the women involved and to anyone offended by it.

The book, titled "Exposing Myself," was published in 1991.

Rivera's post follows a tweet on Thursday by Bette Midler renewing an allegation of being drugged and groped by Rivera and his producer colleague in the 1970s.

In the tweet posted by the actress-singer, she included a video from a 1991 interview with Barbara Walters in which she first made her allegation against Rivera.

In that clip, Midler hesitates in recounting what she alleges happened with Rivera during his visit to interview her in the early 1970s, saying it will get her in trouble. "Get in a little trouble," Walters encourages her.

After Rivera and the producer left their TV crew in another room, they "pushed me into my bathroom. They broke two poppers and pushed them under my nose and proceeded to grope me," Midler told Walters. "Poppers" is slang for the alkyl nitrites class of drugs.

"I did not offer myself up on the altar of Geraldo Rivera," said Midler, calling his behavior "unseemly."

In her tweet on Thursday, Midler called for an apology from Rivera, and added the harassment-solidarity hashtag "#MeToo."

Rivera doesn't mention Midler in his tweet.

There was no immediate comment from Rivera's current employer, Fox News Channel. The network has dismissed two high-profile men over sexual misconduct allegations involving their behavior while at the news channel, host Bill O'Reilly in April and CEO Roger Ailes, who was fired in 2016 and died earlier this year.

Sphinx from 90-year-old movie set unearthed in California

AP

In this Nov. 8, 2017 photo provided by the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, crews move an unearthed sphinx head into safekeeping, where it will be carefully restored in Guadalupe, Calif.

GUADALUPE, Calif. (AP) — Archaeologists working in sand dunes on the central California coast have dug up an intact plaster sphinx that was part of an Egyptian movie set built more than 90 years ago for Cecil B. DeMille's epic "The Ten Commandments."

The 300-pound sphinx is the second recovered from the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.

Dunes Center Executive Director Doug Jenzen tells Santa Barbara news station KEYT-TV that it's unlike other items found on previous digs because most of it is preserved with the original paint intact.

The set of the 1923 movie included more than 20 sphinxes. After filming, DeMille ordered everything buried in the dunes 175 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

They lay undisturbed for decades before recovery efforts began. The newly recovered sphinx is expected to go on display at the dunes museum next summer.

Swift's 'reputation' is on all streaming platforms

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift's "reputation" is finally available on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms.

Swift released her sixth album three weeks ago, but didn't put the album on streaming sites. "Reputation" sold more than 1 million copies in its first week.

The album is also now available on Google Play, Tidal, Pandora and Amazon Music. It features the hits "Ready for It?" and "Look What You Made Me Do."

Swift earned two Grammy nominations this week: she's up for best country song for writing Little Big Town's "Better Man" and best song written for visual media for "I Don't Wanna Live Forever," taken from the "Fifth Shades Darker" soundtrack.

"Reputation" will qualify for nominations at the 2019 Grammys.

Only child feels pressure of his parent's expectations

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and so is my boyfriend. He is an only child, and all throughout his life, his parents have put a lot of pressure on him. Recently, they've been talking about him getting into an honors program in a college. Abby, his parents act like if he doesn't get in, they won't be proud of him. He always feels like he's disappointing them because they never give him any words of encouragement or let him know he's on the right track.

It seems to me that he just wants to know that they're proud of him. It's hard for me to constantly try to support him through this because he needs his parents' approval, and I can't give that to him. Is there any way I can help him? He refuses to talk it out with his parents, but I just want them to be on the same page. Can I help without getting too involved with their family dynamics?

THERE FOR HIM IN DALLAS

DEAR THERE FOR HIM: Much as you would like to help your boyfriend, if you approach his parents about the way they are raising their son, it won't help the situation. The odds are great that it will cause them to resent you. However, if your boyfriend would discuss this with a counselor at school or a teacher he trusts, that person—an educator who is a contemporary of your boyfriend's parents—might suggest that their son needs positive reinforcement to reach his full potential.

DEAR ABBY: I was married for many years to my ex-wife. I met another woman, wound up divorced, and I am now with this other woman.

The problem is, my ex is disabled. Somebody stays with her during the week and cooks for her and such. Sundays are different, and I usually bring food to her, which takes about an hour.

My new lady friend is having a fit about this to the point that we may break up over it. Am I wrong for helping my ex, who has very little family and no children?

GOOD DEED PUNISHED IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR GOOD DEED: You are a kind and caring individual. That your new lady friend cannot recognize this for what it is, an act of compassion, and realize that you would do the same for her if she needed it, is sad. You are not wrong for helping your ex, since there is no one else who seems willing. If this woman is so threatened that she can't cut you some slack one hour a week, perhaps breaking up would be best for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: I am biting my tongue all the way through at work. One co-worker regularly brings her breakfast to eat. The other, even worse, comes in with wet hair and uses a curling iron at her computer station—in shared space! Am I too old-fashioned?

BITING MY TONGUE

DEAR BITING: Many people bring their breakfast to work. Unless there is a rule against it, I see nothing wrong with it.

As to your other co-worker, I agree what she's doing is inappropriate. She'd probably do a better job if she groomed herself in the restroom or at home before work. Is your supervisor or boss aware she's doing it? If not, the person should be informed. If so, then MYOB.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT'S FOR DINNER, MOM?
TORTELLINI.
OH, NO, NOT TORTELLINI! I HATE TORTELLINI!! OH, GROSS! YECCH! TORTELLINI!!
NOTHING IS MORE DISGUSTING THAN TORTELLINI!! CAN'T WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE?
NO.
TORTELLINI ... TORTELLINI... T-O-R...
DICTIONARY

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I MEAN, CAN WE GET A TREE UP ALREADY??
I SURE HOPE SO!
IT'S THE FOURTH, ALREADY!
THIS ISN'T SOME OLD-TIMEY MOVIE WHERE THEY PUT THE TREE UP ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
I NEED MAXIMUM TREE-TO-DECEMBER RATIOS.
MY FESTIVE LEVELS ARE GETTING DANGEROUSLY LOW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HELLO-CABLE COMPANY? I'VE GOT A COMPLAINT.
YOUR SERVICE IS LOUSY, YOUR RATES ARE TOO HIGH, AND YOU DON'T EVEN CARE SINCE YOU'VE GOT A MONOPOLY!
WELL, YEAH - I GUESS THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT. OKAY, I'LL GO BACK AND WATCH FOOTBALL NOW. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

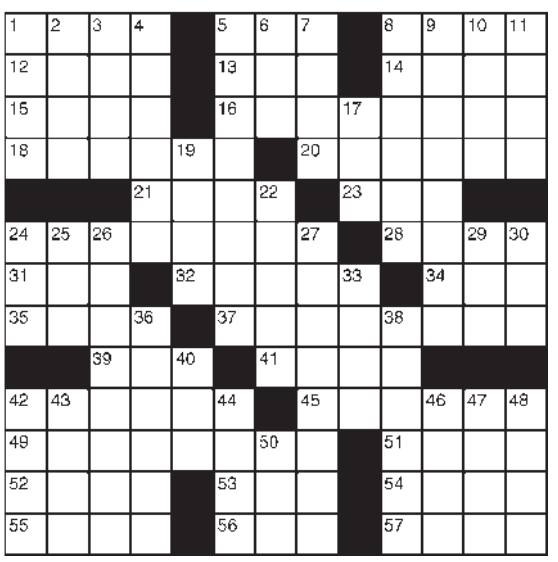
ACROSS
1 Tolerate
5 Tavern
8 Pedestal part
12 Hamburg's river
13 Show to a seat, slangily
14 On the rocks
15 Power co. supply
16 Breed of pony
18 Deli meat
20 Conforms
21 Fallon predecessor
23 Disco guy on "The Simpsons"
24 Pet adoption centers
28 "Born Free" lioness
31 Curse
32 "It's — in the right direction"
34 Bill's partner
35 Alphabet quartet
37 Skilled sleuth
39 Ornate vase
41 Mayberry boy
42 Attack
45 Yule quaff
49 Flock tender
51 Ethereal
52 Marathoner's stat
53 Half of XIV
54 Untalkative one
55 Till bills
56 Charged bit
57 Hankerings

DOWN
1 Honey bunch?
2 First lady of scat
3 First victim
4 Bring to mind
5 Profession
6 Fire sign?
7 Ostrich kin
8 Widen
9 Mexican resort
10 Fender bender
11 Probability
17 NFL six-pointers
19 Transcending (Pref.)
22 Lawn care brand
24 Hotel amenity
25 Fireplace shelf
26 "Oops"
27 Permeated drop by drop
29 Assn.
30 Fine, at NASA
33 Bluenose
36 Heavy curtains
38 Bequest
40 Medical research org.
42 Regarding
43 Tibia's place
44 Jeans-maker Strauss
46 Egyptian river
47 Algerian port
48 Workout venues
50 Carnival city

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	C	T	■	G	A	R	B	■	V	E	R	Y
I	O	L	■	O	D	F	A	■	A	G	F	F
P	O	T	S	H	O	T	S	■	L	O	B	S
S	T	U	P	O	R	■	F	W	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	M	E	■	H	O	T	T	U	B
S	T	O	R	E	■	S	I	N	■	O	R	E
P	O	N	E	■	P	I	T	■	S	T	I	R
L	A	I	■	T	A	X	■	G	H	O	S	T
N	O	T	F	A	R	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	O	A	■	A	L	L	E	G	E
Y	O	G	A	■	G	O	T	A	L	O	N	G
R	O	O	K	■	O	B	I	T	■	N	A	G
S	H	O	E	■	N	I	N	O	■	S	T	Y

Last Friday's Answer 12-04



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 44; Jay-Z, 48; Marisa Tomei, 53; Jeff Bridges, 68.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities that will bring about positive changes personally and financially. Greater involvement in activities and events will lead to encounters with people who will influence your life and future. Don't limit what you can do when you should be taking on more and exploring what life has to offer. Learn from the past and leave it behind you. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 24, 30, 32, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Expand your interests. Take a course or ask people with experience for advice. Knowledge is powerful and will help you reach your objective quickly. Forming partnerships and alliances will be in your best interest. Make personal changes that will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Handle financial, legal and emotional matters with intelligence. Chart out what needs to be done and stick to a conservative guideline that will ensure you do not suffer loss. Trust only in what's tangible. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for opportunities. A partnership or joint venture will give you a chance to get ahead financially. It's up to you to bring about change and to focus your energy on what will help you reach life goals.✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your emotional energy to create something interesting. Charm the people you encounter with your knowledge and experience. Show passion in the projects you take on and sincerity when dealing with others, and you will gain respect and assistance. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Change with the trends and you will not fall behind. Your enthusiasm and ability to take advantage of situations will encourage personal growth. Be creative with your cash and greater rewards will follow. Personal enhancement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be firm and refuse to let someone's emotional blackmail push you in the wrong direction. Take a secretive approach to what you are doing until you have the means to follow through without conflict. Rely on intuition and past experience.✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Travel and communication are encouraged. You can gain a lot by venturing into unknown territory and trying your hand at something new and exciting. Change will do you good and also improve your personal life. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Handle your financial, legal or health matters personally. You'll be given unsatisfactory advice if you leave it up to someone else to take care of your affairs. A change in your professional direction can be expected. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Find out what you need to do to keep things moving forward. Partnerships look promising if you can establish clear roles and as long as everyone is honest about his or her contributions. Be prepared to make adjustments as you move forward. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Your intentions may be good, but not everyone will agree with you. Give everyone the freedom to choose and you will be offered the same in return. Now is not the time to make waves if you want to get things done. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stand up and be counted. You can make a difference if you put your heart into bringing about change. Being true to yourself and to the people and things you love most will bring you joy. Your happiness depends on you alone. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't be naive. Try to view t he actions of the past in a clear light and you'll get a sense of what's about to happen in the future. Trust in yourself and your abilities, not in someone else's promises. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, impeccable and friendly. You are adaptable and responsible.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	2	3					4
							3	7
	3		9	5	4	1		
2			7	4				6
	5						7	
8				3	2			9
		3	2	8	7		4	
4	2							
9					6	7	2	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	4	3	7	9	8	2	5	1
9	1	8	5	2	6	4	7	3
2	5	7	1	3	4	9	6	8
5	7	9	4	8	1	6	3	2
4	2	6	3	7	5	8	1	9
8	3	1	9	6	2	5	4	7
3	6	4	8	1	9	7	2	5
7	9	5	2	4	3	1	8	6
1	8	2	6	5	7	3	9	4

Difficulty level ★★★★★ 12/4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LILIANE BETTENCOURT (1922-2017) Solution: 13 letters

P	L	J	R	E	G	A	L	O	S	S	A	C	I	P
A	A	Y	E	B	H	U	Y	E	E	S	P	H	N	A
M	N	U	T	A	X	E	Y	R	E	Y	I	A	H	R
A	C	D	L	U	N	D	I	U	L	A	E	R	E	I
T	O	S	R	O	A	P	I	Ⓡ	L	R	R	L	R	S
I	M	Y	M	E	M	E	I	Ⓘ	E	P	R	O	I	H
S	E	M	E	E	D	C	B	Ⓐ	U	S	E	T	T	A
S	F	I	Y	N	H	N	E	Ⓗ	H	A	S	T	E	R
E	R	X	E	N	E	G	U	E	C	L	I	E	D	E
L	A	E	R	O	L	S	S	O	S	O	O	R	E	H
T	N	R	S	O	W	O	B	M	F	C	C	O	M	O
S	C	X	U	E	I	C	N	O	D	I	N	T	A	L
E	E	I	S	H	A	M	P	O	O	N	A	C	D	D
N	S	C	I	T	E	M	S	O	C	K	R	I	A	E
E	T	T	E	I	R	N	E	H	A	N	F	V	M	R

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André, Beauty, Book, Charlotte, Cosmetics, Doncieux, Dyes, Empire, Eugene, Founder, France, Francoise, Hair, Heiress, Henriette, Inherited, Jean, Lancôme, L'Oréal, Louise, Luxury, Madame, Matisse, Meyers, Mixer, Money, Nestle, Nicolas, Paris, Paul, Picasso, Pierre, Regal, Rich, Schuelle, Shampoo, Shareholder, Sprays, Victor

Last Friday's Answer: Wonder Woman

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INVITATION TO BID
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SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Boone picked by Yankees as next manager

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees have picked ESPN broadcaster Aaron Boone to succeed Joe Girardi as manager, a person familiar with New York's decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Friday night because the decision had not been announced by the team.

Now 44, Boone has never been a manager or even a coach at any level since retiring as a player after the 2009 season. His 11th-inning home run off Boston's Tim Wakefield won Game 7 of the AL Championship Series for the Yankees against Boston.

Boone was a big league third baseman from 1997-2009 and an All-Star in 2003, when New York acquired him from the Reds at the trade deadline.

Boone was among six people interviewed for the job and won out over Yankees bench coach Rob Thomson, former Cleveland and Seattle manager Eric Wedge, San Francisco bench coach Hensley Meulens, Los Angeles Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward and former Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran, who retired as a player after winning his first World Series this year with Houston.

New York's choice of Boone was first reported by former Daily News columnist Bill Madden.

After missing out on the Yankees' job, Thomson told the Phillies he is accepting an offer to become their bench coach, a person familiar that decision said. That person also spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision was not announced.

Five days after New York lost to Houston in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman announced Oct. 26 that Girardi was not being offered a new contract after 10 seasons, the team's 27th World Series title in 2009 and a 910-710 regular-season record. Cashman later said he was concerned over "ability to fully engage, communicate, connect with the playing personnel."

Boone was the fourth of the candidates to interview with New York, going through about six hours of conversations at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 17.

"I would say in a way I've been preparing for this job for the last 44 years," he said then.

Boone's career with New York was brief. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during a pickup basketball game in January 2004 and was released by the Yankees, who claimed he violated a prohibition against basketball in the guarantee language of his contract. New York replaced him by acquiring Alex Rodriguez from Texas.

Owner Hal Steinbrenner said last month a lack of managing and coaching experience was a concern but not an insurmountable hurdle.

Boone's grandfather, Ray, was a two-time All-Star infielder from 1948-60. His father, Bob, was a four-time All-Star catcher from 1972-90, then managed Kansas City from 1995-97 and Cincinnati from 2001-03. His brother, Bret, was a three-time All-Star second baseman in a big league career from 1992-2005.

"I've been going to the ballpark since I was 3 and 4 years old, and in a way managing the game from a very young age," Aaron Boone said. "And then growing up where my dad was in the big leagues from the time I was born to the time I was in a senior in high school and being around great teams, great players, I've kind of lived this game as a kid."

Boone had never interviewed previously for a manager opening. He had been at ESPN since his retirement as a player.

"I just feel like it's started to really pull at me," he said. "Especially the last few years, I find myself managing games all the time and thinking about strategies and how I would handle different situations."

His dad has worked for the Washington Nationals since December 2004 and currently is an assistant general manager.

"He definitely recognizes how much it's changed over the last couple years, five years, 10 years, to where—especially with analytics these days, it's a different job," Aaron Boone said. "There's a lot to consider and there's a lot of great information out there that is instilled into the game today. And it's I think now more than ever more of a partnership from front office to manager."

"We are an extension of the front office and a part of the front office," he added, "and how we gather information and get it in the hands of the players is a very important part of the job nowadays."

In this Sept. 2, 2009, file photo, Houston Astros' Aaron Boone hustles down the first base line during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field in Chicago. A person familiar with the decision says the New York Yankees have picked ESPN broadcaster Boone to succeed Joe Girardi as manager.

Giants, Marlins 'close' to Stanton trade; Ohtani bidding to start

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Giants and Miami Marlins are "likely at least close to agreeing" on a trade that would send slugger Giancarlo Stanton to San Francisco, but Stanton, of course, would have to OK the deal, Jon Heyman of FanRagSports.com and the MLB Network reports.

Ken Rosenthal of the MLB Network and TheAthletic.com reported that Giants executives met with Stanton on Thursday in Los Angeles to sell Stanton, the NL MVP and major league home run leader last season with 59, on the deal and get him to waive his no-trade clause.

The Giants have reportedly offered second baseman Joe Panik, as well as top prospects Tyler Beede, a right-handed pitcher, and Chris Shaw, a first baseman, in their initial offer. The Giants are also willing to pay a "substantial portion" of the $295 million Stanton is due over the next 10 years.

Stanton, from the Los Angeles area, was said to be interested in going to his hometown Dodgers or the Giants. The Red Sox, thought to be in on Stanton trade discussions earlier this week, have been termed "an extreme long shot" to land him, a source told NBC Sports Boston Red Sox Insider Evan Drellich.

The Red Sox have reportedly turned their attention to a trade for Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu.

In New York, MLB owners voted unanimously Friday to approve a new posting agreement with their Japanese counterparts, a move that allowed bidding to start for coveted pitcher and outfielder Shohei Ohtani.

Following the deal with Nippon Professional Baseball, Ohtani was put up for bid by the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters for the maximum $20 million posting fee. That opened a window for the 23-year-old to reach agreement on a contract with an MLB team until 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 22.

Under MLB's new collective bargaining agreement, Ohtani is limited to a minor league contract subject to a team's signing bonus pool. Texas has the most available at $3,535,000, followed by the New York Yankees ($3.5 million), Minnesota ($3.07 million), Pittsburgh ($2,266,750), Seattle ($1,557,500), Miami ($1.49 million) and the Los Angeles Angels ($1,315,000).

Ohtani was in Los Angeles, a person familiar with his location said. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

His agent, CAA Baseball co-head Nez Balelo, sent a memorandum to all teams Nov. 24 asking for "presentations in both Japanese and English via email" allowing the agency to "share it with the Ohtani family so we can proceed with our due diligence."

Tiger gets passing grade in 1st round in 10 months

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Tiger Woods was watching the leaderboards, and he wasn't alone.

Woods returned to competition for the first time in 301 days, and just like his previous four comebacks from back surgeries, no one was quite sure what to expect. Matt Kuchar was among those who looked for Woods' name whenever he passed a scoreboard at the Hero World Challenge.

"Absolutely, we wanted the Tiger Woods update," Kuchar said Thursday. "I think everybody was excited and couldn't wait to see how he would do."

In his first tournament in 301 days—his first time competing since a fourth back surgery in April—Woods did fine. He made five birdies. He muffed two chips. He saved par. He twice dropped choice words. He once slammed his 6-iron into the turf after a poor tee shot.

And he shot 69 .

It was enough for Woods to feel like he hadn't been gone since Feb. 3.

"It was not only nice to get the first round out of the way, but also I'm only three shots out of the lead," Woods said. "So to be able to put myself there after not playing for 10 months or so, it was nice to feel the adrenaline out there."

Tommy Fleetwood shot a 6-under 66 for a one-shot lead. Woods was in a tie for eighth in the 18-man field at Albany Golf Club. It's progress from last year, when he wasted a good start with a pair of double bogeys over the last three holes, shot 73 and was nine shots out of the lead.

The first round brought a mix of everything, most of it good.

Woods played the opening round with Justin Thomas, the PGA Tour player of the year and one of golf's big hitters. He was alongside most of the day, and occasionally past him. For a guy who turns 42 at the end of the month, and who has had four back surgeries since the spring of 2014, he hasn't lost much power.

His only big miss was on the par-5 15th hole, so far right he hit a provisional in case he couldn't find it. He found it, took a penalty drop and made bogey.

Woods said the driver and putter were the best two parts of his game.

As for that putter, the biggest fist pump was on an 18-foot putt on the fourth hole to save par. Woods avoid another bogey on the par-5 11th by making a 10-foot putt, and he finished his round with a 6-foot par putt on the 18th.

He also made birdie putts of 12 feet, 15 feet and 25 feet. Most importantly, he missed only one putt inside 10 feet.

"I knew he was a great putter from the amount of putts I've seen him make on TV in the past," said Thomas, who was 3 when Woods turned pro.

The biggest difference from this comeback and last year in the Bahamas was preparation.

Woods felt strong enough that he said he played nine consecutive days with players who live near him in Florida—Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Daniel Berger and one round with Dustin Johnson, Brad Faxon and President Donald Trump.

"They really want to help me come back and play, especially playing with Rickie a few times," Woods said.

LeBron takes over as Cavaliers win 11th straight

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers' winning streak was in unexpected jeopardy Saturday night before LeBron James took over.

James scored 34 points, including seven in the final 1:22, and Cleveland beat the Memphis Grizzlies 116-111 for their 11th straight victory.

The loss was the 11th straight for Memphis, including three since David Fizdale was fired Monday and replaced by interim coach J.B. Bickerstaff, but the Grizzlies nearly ended their streak in shocking fashion.

Memphis trailed 91-72 late in the third quarter, but rallied all the way to a tie at 109 on Dillon Brooks' 3-pointer with 2:10 remaining.

That's when James stepped up, to the surprise of no one in the building, particularly Dwyane Wade, his long-time friend and teammate.

"You just shake your head," Wade said. "It's impressive, man. When you're on a team and you have a guy when the game gets close and you can get him the ball and he comes through, maybe not all the time but it seems like every time ... we know he's going to make the right play."

James' basket in the lane gave Cleveland the lead. After Tyreke Evans missed a 3-pointer, James drove the lane, scored and converted the three-point play after being fouled by Brooks with 34 seconds left.

Brooks made two free throws, but James dribbled for several seconds on Cleveland's next possession and hit a jumper from the top of the key for a five-point lead with 5 seconds to go.

"When it's winning time in the fourth quarter, my teammates want me to step up and do what I do best," said James, who scored or assisted on Cleveland's last 17 points.

"That effort tonight would have beaten 90 percent of this league on their home court," Bickerstaff said. "Unfortunately, they've got a guy who is pretty damn good."

Celtics 116, Suns 111

In Boston, Kyrie Irving had a key 3-pointer and a driving basket in the closing two minutes, helping Boston beat Phoenix.

Irving finished with 19 points, leading a balanced attack for Boston. Jaylen Brown and Marcus Morris each scored 17 points, Jayson Tatum had 15 and Al Horford added 14 points and 11 assists.

Devin Booker scored a season-high 38 points for Phoenix in his first game at TD Garden since he put up 70 against the Celtics on March 24. T.J. Warren had 19 points, and Tyson Chandler added 14 points and 18 rebounds.

Phoenix cut a 17-point deficit to 105-103 on Chandler's dunk late in the game. But Irving responded with a 3 from the right wing on the next possession, and his spinning shot off the backboard made it 112-106 with 29 seconds left.

76ers 108, Pistons 103

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 25 points and 10 rebounds and got the better of Andre Drummond down the stretch in a matchup of trash-talking big men to help Philadelphia beat Detroit.

Embiid drew the fifth and sixth fouls on Drummond and drew cheers as he waved goodbye to his fouled-out rival in between hitting four free throws to put Philadelphia ahead 100-95 with 2:35 left.

Robert Covington added 25 points, and Dario Saric had 17 points and hit a 3-pointer with 1:40 left to put the Sixers ahead 103-95.

Drummond had 14 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and five steals. Tobias Harris scored 27 points, and Reggie Jackson had 25 points for the Pistons. They trailed by 18 points early in the third quarter.

Pelicans 123, Trail Blazers 116

In Portland, DeMarcus Cousins had 38 points and New Orleans overcame the absence of Anthony Davis to beat Portland.

E'Twaun Moore added 19 points for the Pelicans. Damian Lillard had 29 points and eight assists for the Blazers, and CJ McCollum added 17 points.

Davis, the Pelicans' top scorer with an average of 25.2 points, was ruled out against the Blazers because of a pelvis injury. An All-Star, Davis was injured in the fourth quarter against the Utah Jazz on Friday night and carried off the court because he couldn't put pressure on his legs.

Mavericks 108, Clippers 82

In Dallas, J.J. Barea had 21 points and 10 assists, and Dallas beat Los Angeles for coach Rick Carlisle's 700th career victory.

Dallas made 16 of 35 3-point attempts and had five players score in double figures. Dirk Nowitzki went 5 for 5 from the long range on his way to 16 points, and reserve Devin Harris finished with 15 points.

Carlisle became the 18th coach in NBA history with at least 700 wins.

DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Clippers (8-13), who have dropped two in a row after winning three straight. Lou Williams scored 18 points.

Nuggets 115, Lakers 100

In Denver, Jamal Murray had 28 points, Will Barton scored 13 of his 16 points in the final 7:44, and Denver scored the game's final 15 points to beat Los Angeles.

Denver was without its starting frontcourt of Nikola Jokic, Paul Millsap and Wilson Chandler. Millsap is out several months after surgery on his left wrist, Jokic was in a walking boot after suffering a sprained left ankle Thursday, but Chandler (back) could return Monday.

Brandon Ingram led the Lakers with 20 points and Brook Lopez had 15 points. Lonzo Ball had nine points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Memphis Grizzlies' Tyreke Evans is entangled with Cleveland Cavaliers' Kevin Love, top, in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, in Cleveland.

Hawks 114, Nets 102

In New York, Dennis Schroder scored 24 points and reserve Luke Babbitt had 20, leading short-handed Atlanta past Brooklyn.

Atlanta had five players score in double figures in its third road win of the season. DeAndre Bembry had 12 points, and Isaiah Taylor and Taurean Prince each had 11.

The Hawks played without starting center Dewayne Dedmon and rookie John Collins due to injuries. Dedmon hurt his left leg Wednesday night and is expected to miss three to six weeks. Collins, the 19th pick in the June draft, injured his left shoulder Thursday night and will be out for two to three weeks.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 15 points for Brooklyn.

Bucks 109, Kings 104

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points and Milwaukee held off Sacramento.

Antetokounmpo made 17 free throws and had 13 rebounds, Khris Middleton added 25 points and Eric Bledsoe had 18. Milwaukee beat the Kings 112-87 on Tuesday night in Sacramento.

Zach Randolph led the Kings with 22 points, and Buddy Hield added 19.

Spain-Portugal rivalry leads top games to watch at World Cup

MOSCOW (AP)— Host Russia and Saudi Arabia play June 14 at Moscow in an opener lacking global appeal, but things pick up the next day when 2010 champion Spain and defending European champion Portugal meet in Sochi.

The Iberian neighbors were drawn into Group B at a Kremlin ceremony Friday. Morocco coach Herve Renard hoped to avoid the "two ogres" but will face them along with Iran.

"It's a complicated group," Spain coach Julen Lopetegui said. "It will be tough. Portugal is a great team. It is the defending European champion and has a squad filled with top players."

None more so than Cristiano Ronaldo, who recently joined Argentina's Lionel Messi as the only five-time winners of FIFA's player of the year award. Messi's quest for his first World Cup title begins the following day when Argentina takes on Iceland -- at 334,000 the least-populous country to qualify for the World Cup.

Iceland coach Heimir Hallgrimsson already knows what he must tell his team: "Watch out for No. 10."

The United States is missing from soccer's top event for the first time since 1986 and four-time champion Italy will be watching from afar for the first time since 1958.

Germany remains the favorite. Its depth was clear when an experimental squad won the Confederations Cup in Russia in July. Germany opens against Mexico in its quest to become the first country to win back-to-back World Cup titles since Brazil in 1962. The Germans then face Sweden and South Korea in Group F.

"We got opponents that are not unknown to us," Germany captain Manuel Neuer said. "That's what I like best, when we know what to expect."

Germany is hoping to be based in Sochi along with Brazil. The only five-time world champion does not intend to move its training camp despite a schedule that has none of its games in the Black Sea resort. The Selecao, beaten 7-1 at home by Germany in the 2014 semifinals, were drawn in Group E with Switzerland, Costa Rica and Serbia.

"Despite the distances, there are quick ways to get there," Brazil coach Tite said.

England, eliminated in the group stage three years ago, was drawn into Group G along with newcomer Panama, Tunisia and Belgium. Gareth Southgate's first World Cup game as a coach will be a repeat of his first as a player—Southgate made his World Cup debut in England's 2-0 win over Tunisia in 1998.

"We've been good at writing off teams and then getting beaten by them," Southgate said.

Roberto Martinez also will be making his World Cup debut. But the Belgium coach knows England well after spending two decades there as a coach and player.

"It is going to be one of those games with no secrets," said Martinez, a former Everton manager. "We have 25 players in the British game. That brings that understanding. That brings that competitive level."

Peru, the last of the 32 teams to qualify for Russia, is in Group C with 1998 champion France, Australia and Denmark.

"It could have been worse," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

The only group without a former World Cup champion is H—Poland, Senegal, Colombia and Japan.

Diaz impressed with rookie-laden Rollers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMI Rollers players, officials, and supporters pose for a photo at the conclusion of the 2017 Thanksgiving Hoop Fest held in Guam last month.

The rookie-laden NMI Rollers fought with a heart of a veteran.

This was how Rollers coach Joe Diaz described his U16 and U18 teams after an impressive showing in last month's 2017 Thanksgiving Hoop Fest in Guam.

The Rollers' went home with the second place trophy in the U16 division contest, while its U18 squad placed third in the nine-day tournament held at the Tamuning Gym.

The U16 Rollers earned 2-1 record in the elimination round, with its only loss coming from Guam's Island Chiefs II, 58-29. Diaz's wards then escaped with a 35-33 win over Tinian to earn a finals berth. The NMI Rollers eventually lost to the Island Chiefs in the title match, 50-31.

In the U18 division, the NMI Rollers bowed to a squad from Guam and Tinian, while the former's lone victory was against another squad from the hosts.

"There are only two veteran players in our U16 team and three in our U18 squad. Still, they did a good job against Guam," said Diaz, who had co-captains Aaron Ogumoro and Christian Arceo, and Angelo Factor as the only veterans on the U18 team.

Chioni Dela Cruz and John Paul Cruz were the only experienced players on the Rollers' U16 squad, while the rest were newcomers. Joaquin Agulto, Richard Enrico Ballerares, Diego Elnei Cabrera Jr., Dillan Joaquin Cruz, Nyrel Eugenio, Nehemiah Fernandez, Andrew James Hudkins, Hanferney Kapwich, Devon Pangelinan, Vincent Christopher Tudela, Roger Keith Valencia, Everett Indalecio, and Frederick John Garon were the other players who suited up for the NMI Roller's U16 team.

In the U18, the squad also had Jeremy Agulto, Joey Ken Cruz Jr., Patrick Duenas Jr., Kyle Fabia, Jay Johnny Jr., Jelbert Quitugua, and Enrique Joven Rabauliman.

Diaz said they have to work on some aspects of their game to improve their skills and play.

"One of the things that we need to improve is how to box out our opponents. We need to work on how to go up against taller teams. Guam teams have taller players and we need to learn how to get rebounds against taller teams," added Diaz.

The NMI Rollers players are back on training, holding practices every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm to 7:30pm, and Saturdays from 3pm to 6pm at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, Diaz would like to thank Pacific Amusement, Hertz, Transcend Solution, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and First Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Reps. Angel Demapan, Don Barcinas, Joe Itibus, Ed Villagomez, Frank Aguon, B.J. Attao, Ed Propst, Ivan Blaco, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Vinnie Sablan, Frank Dela Cruz, and John Paul Sablan, Senate President Arnold Palacios, and Sens. Justo Quitugua and Sixto Igisomar for their support to the NMI Rollers' trip to Guam.

4-person coed beach volley this Saturday

Pacific Islands Club Saipan will be hosting a four-person coed beach volleyball tournament this Saturday.

Entry fee is $25 per team, which must have one female player in its lineup and playing inside the court.

PIC Saipan Sports and Events manager Keoni Ichihara is advising interested players to form their respective squads early since slots are limited to 12 teams.

"We're having our PIC beach volleyball tournament. It's been a while since PIC hosted a volleyball tournament and we are very excited to bring it back," said Ichihara.

A limited edition shirt and beverages provided by Pacific Trading Co. are included in the $25 registration fee. Entry forms and waivers are available at the PIC Saipan front desk.

Pool play in the one-day tournament, which is supported by PIC Saipan and Bridge Capital, begins at 9am, while games in the double elimination bracket will be held in the afternoon.

For more information, call Ichihara at 237-5174 or email at keoni.ichihara@picsaipan.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

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sort & Spa, was a bit longer than the original 100K course due to the ongoing road construction along Isa Drive going up Capital Hill.

"It's hard going to the Bird Island Lookout because of the headwind and the sunlight. I was also careful in trying to pull away since my back tire can't get enough traction on the road and was slipping," said Galedo, who was third behind compatriot Jan Paul Morales last year, when asked about the hurdles he had to endure during the race.

Several others echoed Galedo's sentiments, as the humidity caused by the late Friday night rain and an early Saturday morning drizzle made the road slippery.

But Galedo, being a veteran of International Cycling Union (Union Cycliste International) races, made a gamble as they further went deeper along the course, keeping a safe distance against his compatriots.

The 19-year-old Lomotos, a native of Mangaldan town Pangasinan province, tailed Galedo the entire race, but wasn't able to move ahead of the 2014 Le Tour de Filipinas overall champion. Lomotos, the 2017 Ronda Pilipinas Best Young Rider recipient and Galedo's teammate under the Roadbike banner, reached the finish line in 3:15:55.7—six minutes ahead of Philippine Navy-Standard Insurance's Morales, who clocked in at 3:21:32.

"This is truly 'Hell' with the heat and headwind," Lomotos said moments after crossing the finish line. "It was really tough and I was cautious with my ride since this was my first time to join the race."

Dan Viel Carino, another Filipino bet riding under 7 Eleven, was two seconds behind Morales at 3:21:34, while 2012 third placer Aleksandr Dorovskikh fell to fifth at 3:24:14.

Morales won the event with the original course of 100K that included the downhill race from Isa Drive in Capital Hill to the flat road of Chalan Pale Arnold. His winning time last year was 3:04:51, while Galedo registered 3:06:18, behind the 3:05:32 of Japanese Makoto Morimoto.

Galedo, Lomotos, and Morales pulled the rug under the Hong Kong riders, who were the early favorites in this year's race, but their unfamiliarity with the course, the weather, and a couple of technical problems with their bikes booted them out of the Top 5.

BATANG

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solid game and shooter Jeff Che was on target in the finals.

The Silencer, in contrast, clearly struggled both on offense and defense without Fitial, who scored 37 points in their 91-74 semis win over Team Sawi and had more than 10 rebounds. Without Fitial, Angelo Fernando was left with the tough task to carry the cudgels on offense for the Silencer, while Batang Bear Brand limited its foe to one shot per customer as the former was not there to clear the board.

Fernando worked early making the Silencer's third field goal, while Mico Usi opened the team's scoring with a triple, followed by Nestor Arreza's reverse layup for their 5-0 lead. That was the only time the Silencer had the upper hand, as after the 13-13 deadlock, Batang Bear Brand unloaded a 14-0 run bridging the last three minutes of the first quarter and the opening two minutes of the second to take control of the match. Batang Bear Brand went on to close the half with a 50-35 advantage.

With Batang Bear Brand threatening to pull away, Fernando tried to step up in the third canto and drew some help from Amor Zapata and Patrick Morales to cut the deficit to 8, twice, 45-53, 49-57. However, Gamboa hit rally-halting baskets in the third to keep Batang Bear Brand's safe distance and the eventual champion remained on top by twin digits at the end of the third, 63-53.

Then in the fourth canto, Batang Bear Brand went for the kill, dropping an 11-2 bomb for a 74-55 advantage. Che, Esdrelon, and Gamboa teamed up in the scoring surge and Batang Bear Brand had the game in the bag and the championship at the halfway mark of the fourth canto, as it led by 22, 80-58. Batang Bear Brand put the finishing touches to its title win by hitting its free throws in the closing minutes, as the team capitalized on the foul troubled Silencer.

Gamboa top-scored for Batang Bear Brand with his 33 points, while Che and Esdrelon added 23 and 15, respectively. Fernando led the Silencer with his 20 points, while Zapata and Usi chipped in 12 each, and Morales contributed 11.

Batang Bear Brand 88 — Gamboa 33, Che 23, Esdrelon 15, Ariar 6, Flores 4, Devero 3, Achas 3.

Silencer 69 — Fernando 20, Usi 12, Zapata 12, Morales 11, Sevilla 4, Estores 4, Perez 2, Arreza 2, Culala 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 50-35, 63-53, 88-66.

TWIN

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short in the men's open singles and doubles, Cruz came out victorious in the mixed doubles as he and Isabel Heras survived Villanueva and Malika Miyawaki in an extended finale yesterday afternoon.

Cruz and Heras coasted past their foes in the first set, 6-0, but missed a sweep when Miyawaki and Villanueva labored a 6-3 victory in the second. Then in the super-tiebreak third set, the finalists stood toe-to-toe before Heras and Cruz pulled off a 10-8 win.

The eventual champions moved into the finals after outclassing Conatsu Kaga and Song in the semis, 7-6, 6-0, while Villanueva and Miyawaki also took only two sets to down Tania Tan and Michael Ren in the other Final Four pairing, 6-1, 6-2.

11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Nap Dizon goes downhill toward the Bird Island Lookout during last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

Tyce Mister carefully steers his road bike while negotiating a curve.

Jerome Diyco makes a turn after passing Grotto to head back to one of the punishing climbs of the race.

A group of riders flashes the thumbs up sign as it heads out of Grotto.

Russ Quinn shows no sign of fatigue after completing the punishing climb out of the Bird Island Lookout and Grotto.

A DFS relay team member greets the cheering crowd as she heads south of the race course.

Ben Babauta heads to the Grotto turnaround.

Butch Sublemente smiles as he makes his way to the Bird Island Lookout.

Boone picked by Yankees as next manager

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron takes over as Cavaliers win 11th straight

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Twin wins for Schorr

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Robbie Schorr had a strong finish in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic as he bagged two more division titles in the final week of the competition.

Schorr, who took the boys U18 singles crown in the opening week, added the men's open singles and doubles to his collection after prevailing in back-to-back title matches yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court. The 15-year-old player first defeated 18-year-old Moris Villanueva, 6-3, 7-6 (2), in their men's open singles championship match in the morning before Schorr teamed up with Peter Loken in beating Bobby Cruz and Villanueva in the doubles finale in the afternoon, 6-2, 6-4.

Loken and Schorr were seeded first in the doubles and automatically moved to the semifinals. Then in the Final Four, the eventual winners slipped past Guam's Mason Caldwell and Camden Camacho, 2-6, 6-2, 10-1, to march into the title game. Caldwell and Camacho, before losing to the No. 1 seed pair, came from a tough 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) victory against Saipan's Steven Goodwin and Vincent Tudela last Friday at the upper half of the draw. At the lower half, the No. 2 seed duo of Cruz and Villanueva made it to the finals after sweeping Tony Kim and Ken Song, 6-3, 6-2.

In the singles play, Schorr was unseeded and qualified to the Final Four after dominating Caldwell, 4-1, 4-2. The Saipan International School student was then pitted against Cruz in the semis and also needed only two sets to win, 6-0, 6-3. Cruz arranged a semis duel against Schorr at the bottom half of the draw following a 4-0 (retired) triumph over Tony Kim.

At the top half of the eight-player draw, the No. 1 seed Villanueva outlasted Camacho, 5-4 (3), 5-3, to make it to the semis opposite Song, a 4-1, 4-0 winner over Tudela. Villanueva then eliminated Song, 6-3, 6-2, for a finals date against Schorr.

Meanwhile, after falling

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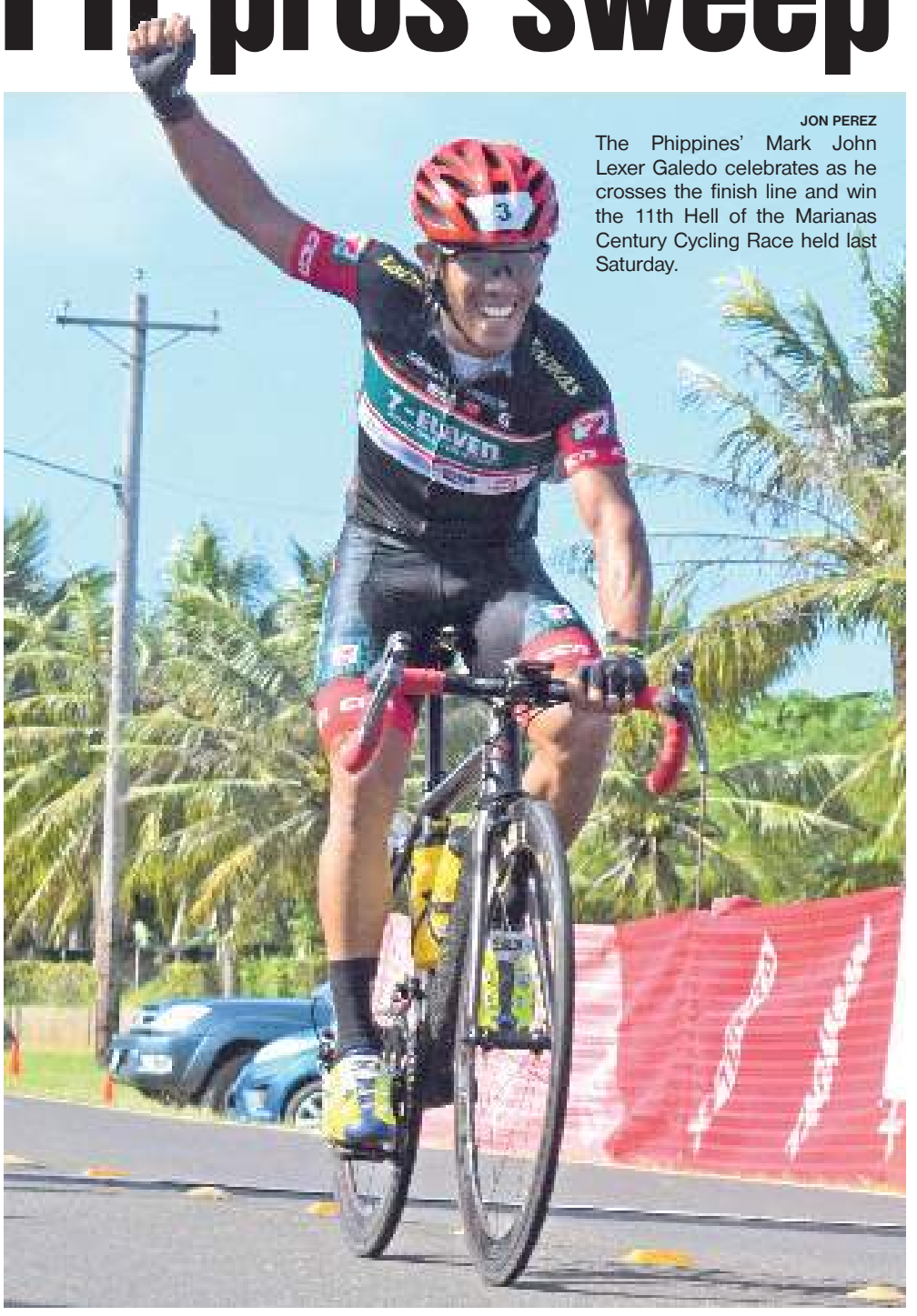
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr goes for a backhand return to Moris Villanueva during the second set of their title game in the men's open singles division of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

PH pros sweep 'Hell'



JON PEREZ
The Phippines' Mark John Lexer Galedo celebrates as he crosses the finish line and win the 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race held last Saturday.

Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle

By JON PEREZ
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The Phil-ippines' Mark John Lexer Galedo shrugged off the challenge put up by a strong field of visiting pro riders to rule the 2017 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race and lead a 1-2-3 finish for the Filipino contingent.

Galedo, who missed last year's men's pro title, this time made sure his name would be etched on the perpetual trophy as he completed last Saturday's 115-kilometer race in 3:15:51, more than four seconds ahead of youngster and fellow PH pro Ronald Lomotos. This year's edition, which started and ended at the main entrance of the Mariana Re-

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Batang Bear Brand triumphs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand eased past the Kelvin Fitial-less Silencer, 88-69, in the winner-take-all finale in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fitial missed the most important game of the season due to a family event and his highly anticipated matchup with fellow big man Hal Spott did not materialize, as the latter was also attending a family gathering off-island. However, Batang Bear Brand survived the absence of Spot as tried-and-tested veterans Ronnel Gamboa and Elmer Esdrelon played their usual

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Batang Bear Brand's Ron Gamboa is sandwiched by the Silencer's Rey Culala, left, and Mike Estores during the fourth quarter of their title game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.